



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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FOUNDED 1991

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The last meeting was held June 17 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library with 11 members present.

Denny Coulardot reported that speeds are still fairly slow. Water temperatures are now 75-76 degrees in most area lakes.

Many Spoonpluggers reported catching a few bass and northerns, but peak activity periods have yet to arrive. Fishing reports at the next meeting are bound to show much better results.

John Bales reported on his recent trip to Lake St. Clair. He discussed the varying weed lines and the relationship of largemouth and smallmouth to the structure situations, both man-made and natural, that exist in the lake. John and Deb spent their vacation on Lake St Clair and as you can see from the photos on the following page, it appears they had some success. John will have a full report at the July 15th meeting.

John also praised Denny for taking him under his wing in the beginning. Denny taught him how to fish a jig, how shoreline sightings work, etc., but what stands out as the most profound thing Denny taught was: "it takes hard work...IF, you want to get better." Yes, you have to read the book, and you have to trust that everything is accurate and reliable, but then you must go out and do it. If you feel you are not doing something right, perhaps you need to re-read the book. It's all in there, it just that until you experience things on the water, and then read it again...and an understanding takes place, it's as if you must have missed that particular part the first time. Many of us have had this experience over and

over. The answers were in the book all along, it's just that it takes time and repetitive experiences for us to grasp and appreciate the knowledge that is contained in the Green Book. Hard work, yes, but...it DOES work.

David Gould caught a nice prize recently. He hooked a line while trolling and pulled up a 30 inch gar on the end of the line. After releasing the gar, he kept pulling and at the other end was a practically new 7 ft. St Croix medium heavy rod with a new Lews Speed Spool baitcaster reel. About a \$350.00-\$400.00 outfit. Nice catch!

The next meeting **July 15, 2013** will be the planning meeting for our:

**Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers
Annual "Buck Sez" Network Outing
August 14, 15, 16, 17, 2013**

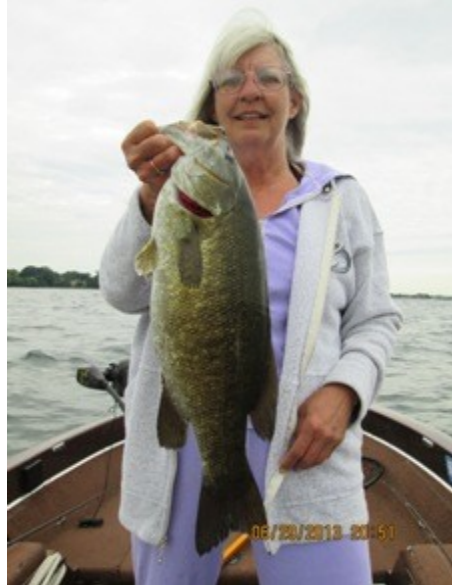
**Forest Ridge Campground
(NW of Columbia City, Indiana)
(260) 327-3551**

**Contact John Bales (260) 854-3921
Contact Denny Coulardot (260) 691-3118**

Spouses are always welcome, but most especially welcome when it comes to the planning of this event. If you have donations for the raffle, please bring give them to myself or John Bales, or bring them to the outing. Thanks, Ted

**NEXT MEETING: July 15, 2013 at the
Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



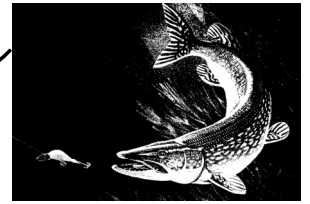
John and Debbie Bales spent their vacation of 6 days on Lake St Clair. These are a sample of photos from that trip.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



In order for a fisherman to fish a structure situation or a feature, he must be able to interpret what is there and how best to go about fishing it. A structure situation is defined as a feature of the bottom that is different from the surrounding area.

What brings about laughter by some is a fishing fact that states that the fish are either in the shallows, the deep, or somewhere in between. This should be self-evident to all, but surprisingly many fishermen go about their fishing as if there were no truth to the statement. Without looking at this structure situation, we will have fish that could be shallow (good movement or spring time spawning conditions), deep (winter, cold front conditions or the fish in the sanctuary before moving), or in between, maybe stopped at a break or a break line during a movement. It is our job as a Spoonplugger to be able to interpret exactly the size and shape of the feature, including the contact point and then use our tools to fish the thing. The only way to say that we have fished this feature properly and to say that there are no fish there at this time is to start as shallow as we can and end up carrying our depth control as deep as the features go or as deep as we can control our lures with confidence. Were you thinking that we would do this on the troll and consider it fished? Don't think so! We must also cast this feature, starting with the shallows and working it all the way to the deepest water. If we have already trolled this feature, it would make no sense to cast a Spoonplug. We have already checked the faster speeds. We must now chose an anchoring position or as many as it takes to completely cover the slower speeds with a jump type lure. A blade bait would be a good start and then a jig for a follow up. The weights of our jump type lures would be lighter in the shallows and heavier as we check deeper.

If we cannot interpret what is there to begin with, how would we expect to be able to fish it correctly with any type lure? How can we make a good trolling pass if we do not know what is there?

Remember this quote! *"If I were to place the importance of knowledge on any one given area, the highest degree of importance would probably have to be placed on your ability to read and interpret bottom conditions."*

One more before we are finished. *"You now hold in your hands the power to change yourself into a great fisherman."* This one came from George Pazik. It is the first sentence from the Green Book. It's too bad that there are so many that still don't believe!!!!!!!

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:

Each time I get to a new section, such as this weather and water study, and after reading your opening remarks, I keep asking myself: Why does he break all this material down into ‘sections?’ Why not state a fact, and then point out what we must do to catch the fish? Why go through all this study on the different subject matter?”

My reaction to this is practically the same as yours. For too many years, I have preached the basic facts by showing, speaking, and written word. In fact, all the material found in this big study was in the first small sheet printed years and years ago. The reason for this detailed expanded version of Basics is due to the fact the fisherman did not hear, or did not understand. This is by no means a reflection on the intelligence of the fisherman. It was due to what he had heard, said, and done, and what others were saying or doing. His head was filled with doubts and unanswered questions. The purpose of this study is to see if doubts and questions can be so eliminated as **to make more fishermen more aware of fishing facts.**

When all is said and done, all that was ever needed was the Spoonplugger’s Basic Guideline. We have been stressing this point all through this study. That’s all I used, and it was all some of the better fishermen in the country used. If you grasp what was said in the Basic Guideline, you can see it’s all there.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”