



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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FOUNDED 1991

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The last meeting was held February 11, 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members and guests present.

We welcomed Tom Moore of Fremont Michigan who was in the area ice fishing with Mike Tokar of Huntertown (?) who also attended the meeting.

Ice fishing has been very spotty and is all but over with as the warmer weather and rains have taken a toll on what ice we had.

Denny Coulardot suggested every reread the article by Barry Zorzanello in the last National Spoonplugger. It is a short article, but right on the money on how to map a structure in order to get a mental picture of what is there. Many veteran Spoonpluggers may not often draw maps, but this is more to do with experience and time on the water than to an inability to draw maps. There is an old saying by Terry O'Malley: "If you can't draw it...you haven't mapped it"!

Denny also went over rods and reels for casting and trolling and the use of lure knockers in retrieving hung-up lures. Several lake maps were also gone over.

John reminded everyone of the Chicago Winter Seminar on March 16th and mentioned the he and several others were going up the night before.

John's video of fishing the Detroit River is finished and will be available at the seminar.

Dues (book of stamps) are also due for those who haven't donated yet.

Denny speculated that the reason fall fishing was less than optimum again this year may have been due the low water level caused by the drought this summer.

The reasons could be a combination of things, but the low water level sticks out as a major factor. Our lakes have been going through a series of changes the last couple of decades. Lakes have been gradually clearing up due to the invasion of zebra mussels and the expansions, additions and upgrades of private and central sewage systems.

Weed spraying has also expanded a great deal during the past decade. It seems that the lakes associations as well as many upscale property owners have called and all-out war on weeds...which would be advantageous if they were concentrating on invasive species. Sadly, that is not the case. As has been discussed many times before, the weed spraying results in a two pronged attack on most fish species. The decaying weeds take oxygen out of the water and the spray itself cannot be good for the fish to ingest.

Lake traffic has increased dramatically with the introduction of jet skis and the thermal wet suits extend the water skiing season from ice-out to ice-in. Boat motors seem to increase in size and horse power every year.

Agricultural runoff used to amount to increased levels of nitrogen and a few other natural fertilizers.

Now, its anyone guess as to the chemicals draining into our waters.

Last years drought and resulting low water levels on top of everything else is bound to have an effect on aquatic life. We can only hope our best fishing days are not in the past!

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 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

847-322-2695

swdclar@comcast.net

(FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER/MEETING-March 15th, 6:30 PM MORETTI'S RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA (847) 397-0123; 1893 Walden Office Square, Schaumburg, IL 60173 Just west of IL-53/I-290 at Algonquin Rd. on Arbor Dr. frontage <http://www.morettischicago.com/> Hope you can join us!)

Leoni Outing

Jackson, MI

June 20-24, 2013

Contact: John Zaborny

517-414-3596

jzaborny@sbcglobal.net

Muskegon Lake, MI

Fisherman's Landing

July 10-14, 2013

Lunker Hunters

Contact: Chase Klinesteker

616-949-8665

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:

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or

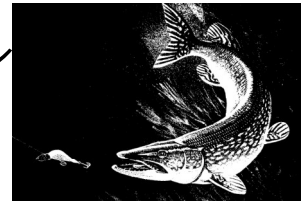
Denny Coulardot: 260-691-3118

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



MENTAL TOUGHNESS

One of the things I hear and see from some of our Spoonpluggers is a lack of confidence when going through the presentation of lures. There could be many things that would make a person not focused on the task at hand. A lack of experience could be the most important reason. In order for a fisherman to understand basic fish movements, he must spend enough time on the water to grasp what the fish do in many conditions and what you and I must do to catch him. We must become a good troller first and this will tell us all about the casting. Early and late in the season, casting can be more important than the trolling. We must spend enough time with each so that we develop confidence in doing both. If there is any short cut in fishing, it is the ability to already have an idea of what the fish are doing and the procedures we must go through before we even get on the water. This is confidence and having this knowledge will only come with time on the water. There should never be a doubt as to what is needed, as far as the presentation of lures at any time of the year. It is a mechanical process of checking out our depth's and speeds to eliminate the unproductive water and to arrive at the fish in the shortest amount of time. Each and every trolling pass is done for a reason. If we are casting, every cast is made for a reason. In doing, both trolling and casting, our depth and speed control should be considered at all times. The depth that the fish are and the speeds that are needed to make the fish take will change with the weather and water conditions that we face for that particular time. All of these variables in fishing must be taken into consideration and checked out before we can say where the fish are. Every lake is different in features, shapes, sizes, species of fish and every day we face different weather and water conditions. The more lake types we are able to fish, the more species, the different seasons, the more that will be understood by the Spoonplugger. Trolling is our real teacher. It is what we do after the fish are found that will determine how many fish we put in the boat. Again, this will be determined by how much experience and time on the water we have. A fisherman's confidence is what will enable him to stick with it regardless of how things are going, good or bad. Some humans cannot concentrate for longer than a few minutes on any one thing without confidence in what they are doing. Success on any given day will depend on if the fisherman knows enough and is able to stick with the basic guidelines of trolling and casting in, on and around the features that the fish use in their movements and migrations. It's as easy as falling off a log!!!!!!

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:

Too often, during the pre-spawn and the spawning season, fishermen rush to the water expecting to find the fish in the shallows. They become puzzled when they don't find them there. They tend to forget that how far a fish moves on migration, and how long they stay is dependent upon the weather and water conditions that exist at that particular time. They neglect weather and water, and if the deeper parts of the structures are checked at all—it's a short check—done in a half hearted manner. They return to the shallows **with no regard to where it is** because “the fish just gotta be there—it's that time of the year.”

The pre-spawn and spawning season is a period of changing weather and water conditions. Fish react to these changes just as they do in any part of the season. Weather and water condition can wreck a spawning season. This is one of the reasons why there are missing age groups in most waters. A good rule to follow during this period is; the closer the spawning season the more fish can be **expected** in the shallows. Be happy when this occurs. One trip may be good and the next bad. One year might be good and the next bad.

Regardless how many times I say the speed control will vary during the season—reaching a maximum in hot weather, and a minimum in the colder—I find the average fisherman encounters a great deal of difficulty in adapting his speed control to the season. He has a tendency to forget how much this control can change during the season. He will tend to stick with one speed too long after a reduction or and increase is called for. Maybe he hasn't fished for a couple of months, and doesn't realize the speed factor may have changed. You must remember that speed control can change from a trolling speed with the motor practically full throttle (5-10 H.P.) in the hottest weather, to a speed in the cold part, to a jump type lure that is moving so slowly it seems an eternity between each new cast.

My experience through the years has proven to me that few fishermen absorb anything but the operation and controls that were present when contact was made with the fish—a specific lure produced at a particular place, and in a certain way. They failed at a later date because they assumed where the fish would be, and what it took to catch him. This kind of thinking results in failure. You must never believe that a particular presentation, depth, speed, or color is best. Being neutral in every respect on every trip is a must. Only after fish have been located is it safe to say that something appears best, but certainly not before, nor on future trips.

Whatever the time of year it might be, or whatever the weather and water conditions may be, regardless of how short and slow the movement might be, your best chance of catching fish is by fishing the most potentially productive water. You will never catch fish by fishing where they ain't.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”