



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held October 21, 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library with 17 members present.

John gave a rundown on a couple of recent trips to Lake Erie/Detroit River. The smallmouth had not begun to appear in their usual spots, either out in Lake Erie or in the Detroit River...at least not in any numbers. A few nice fish were caught but the numbers of big smallies did not compare to past years. Speculation was that the warmer than normal temperatures could have been the culprit. Things seem behind schedule. There were enough boats fishing in enough areas that if the smallies had been there, they would have been caught. This proves there are still mysteries as to what triggers the typical large migrations and schoolings of these fish yet to be solved. It's frustrating yet challenging.

For those who have fished this area, we know the Canadian border is close to many of the spots we fish in Lake Erie/Detroit River. I recently found out just how close as I received a ticket for fishing in Ontario without a license. It could have been worse, since he could have confiscated our equipment, but since it was obvious we had no idea we had trolled across the imaginary line he just gave me an unnecessary lecture along with the ticket. Yeah, I get that we're supposed to have a license. I usually have a Canadian license, but didn't even think about it since we weren't expecting to enter Canadian waters. Perhaps we need a warning signal on the GPS?

Speaking of Lake Erie, Dave Gould and Mike Tokar both reported catching over 200 perch each in various areas.

Jeff Gill reported catching an 11 inch bluegill on Wawasee recently. (Get out your ruler in order to visualize just how big that bluegill really was!)

Denny reported that most of his early season muskies have been caught in the 6-12 foot range and that NOTHING has been caught below the thermocline. The only catchable fish were at or above the thermocline.

As for the thermocline, it is undoubtedly gone by now. The last few weeks have been below normal temperatures and the lakes are cooling off quickly now. And this week temperatures are dipping into the 20's. As the cold surface temperatures sink to the bottom of the water column, the entire column of water averages out at nearly the same temperature. A couple of things happen. The fish seem to bunch up more in tighter schools, their metabolism will begin to slow so typical lure speeds tend to be slower and the fish are no longer limited by the thermocline so they may be anywhere in the water column.

Cold fronts will still rule the day as cold nighttime temperatures can still cause an unstable water condition by dropping unwelcome temperature changes on the fish. Just like us older folk, the fish don't like change!

This is a great time of year to put good stringers together if you can locate the fish. Spoonplugging solves that problem.

Y'all have a great Thanksgiving.

**NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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



Denny Coulardot with a couple of early fall muskies from area lakes.



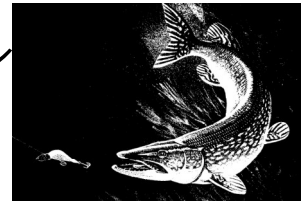
Dan King with a painted canoe paddle of a northern pike purchased recently at a fishing lure show. Painted by Geoff Mowery.

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



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



If you people haven't noticed, about every 30 days or so, you get a newsletter. That means that someone has to think of something to write, and another person must put forth some effort to pass on some fishing facts that we talked about at our last meeting. That same person must add the pictures, make the pages fit for the size of the news and then is responsible for putting them into envelopes or send them to the correct e mail address. How lucky we are that these people actually enjoy making this effort because it gives great satisfaction knowing that we have done our part to help keep Spoonplugging alive.

Mr. Perry knew that the education was most important in order to make Spoonplugging long lasting. Take a look at all of the new lures and fishing methods that have come and gone just since this newsletter has been going on. They are hot to trot for a while and the big money is made and then they just seem to fade away. Most of fishing is not about the teaching of how to catch a fish. It is about selling fishing equipment and the truth about fishing (if they even know what the truth is!), is not a priority when looking for a profit. Enough said about that.

Our fall fishing is upon us. Today's surface water temperature was 48 degrees. The thermoclines on most all of the lakes are gone. This means that the water condition is more stable and we should start getting some good fish movements. Do not expect all of the fish to be in and around the deeper holes at this time of the year. At times, there will be short movements that may extend all the way into the shallows, so don't forget the shallows all together. Last fall was not a good one for catching and I surely do not have the answer to that but I do know that there were a few times that I did not check shallows enough and heard it through the grapevine that a couple of anglers did very well in three feet of water. I am talking about bass over six pounds and a good stringer of other good bass for the day. One way to keep that from ever happening is to start out shallow and end up as deep as you need to go.

This can be the most rewarding time of the year to make a catch of any kind. You can even go to the speed boat lakes and there is no one around. This alone makes it a whole lot more fun.

*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:**

.....Another thing which might be mentioned is the problem encountered after you reach the 15 foot depth. The amount of line used, the type of line used, or the lure types used to reach depths below this 15 feet will separate the men from the boys. It becomes increasingly more difficult to have control beyond this depth. The “feel” starts to disappear, interpretation becomes harder—fishing in general just becomes more difficult and tiring. **To cap all this**, as depth increases, the fisherman has to become **more exact**. Fish react to depth in such a way that they are more difficult to catch and more exact presentation must be made in order to make them take. **BUT**, you must not pass up this deep water trolling just because it is difficult. Working this water or trying to place your lures correctly in this water, is the finest **teacher** around. It may take some time for you to become **exact**, but it will be well worth your effort.

If I appear to have put a lot of emphasis on trolling, you are right. In my opinion it takes far more skill to become a good troller that it does to become a good caster. For generations fishermen have been instructed in the proper procedure for casting, but never on trolling. There is a definite purpose for every trolling maneuver. And in the final analysis, **it is trolling that will tell you where, when, why, and how to cast. I can’t say the same for casting.**

Trolling will be a constant reminder of DEPTH and SPEED control—**casting will not**. If you limit yourself to casting, or overdo it, pretty soon you will be putting faith in the size, color, and action of your lures, rather than in Depth and Speed control. You can put this in your pipe and smoke it, because it will happen.

Trolling will also: more quickly eliminate unproductive water, greatly facilitates and shortens the time of mapping and interpretation, allows a greater area to be covered to find fish, produces more ‘straggler’ (Remember these fish are important on those days which produce little or no movement), allows more varied and better speed and depth control. Competes with modern day traffic, makes fishing a family sport, no casting skill is needed, allows the use of lure weights and sizes which may not be usable with the available casting rig—plus many more.

While Spoonpluggers are taught the importance of trolling, this does not rule out casting by any means. **If you want to become a good fisherman you must be in a position to do BOTH in a sane and intelligent manner.**

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