



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held September 16, 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library with 17 members present.

President Denny reported that he has confirmed the date for the 2014 "Buck Sez" Outing for August 13, 14, & 15th 2014 at Forest Ridge Campground.

Denny also reported that he and Mike Price had caught 544 northerns and was giving up fishing for them this year will instead concentrate on other species (musky?)

John Bales reported on an email exchange he's been having with DNR fish biologist Jed Pearson concerning weed spraying in our natural lakes. John had inquired why spraying is so much more intense than in years past. It seems that some lakes are getting sprayed on nearly a monthly basis.

Jed explained that in the past, one concentrated spraying in the spring was all that was done. Now the spring spraying takes place and invasive weed assessments are taken and follow-up sprayings with chemicals specific to the type of invasive are used. This approach is supposed to be more effective in reducing invasive weed species and cheaper than using a cocktail of chemicals in the hopes of treating all the weeds.

Although this approach sounds good for elimination of non-native weeds, John feels the constant spraying keeps the fish in a perpetual state of stress which is why John began the discussion with Jed in the first place. Many Spoonpluggers have been reporting fish, especially northerns, that have sores on them resembling a lamprey scar. Research turns up many differing causes and names for this condition including:

lymposarcoma, EMZ (aeromonas hydrophila), pseudomonas hydrophila, VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) and others. Some are caused by virus and some by parasite. Whatever the actual "disease" it seems to be following a pattern of showing up following aquatic weed control. According to fish biologists, they don't believe the spraying is the cause of the sores. Most of us think that is BS. It only makes sense that if the fish are under constant stress, they will be more susceptible to contracting diseases whether by virus or parasites because of the degraded immune system brought on by stress. We are all well aware of what happens to the fishing following aquatic weed treatments.

Jed does say that the DNR are taking a more careful look at aquatic weed control due to the increased demands made by lakes associations and lake property owners. Permits have increased substantially in the past decade and the DNR are spending a great deal more time in evaluating the requests.

Don't be shy about reporting to the proper authorities the negative effects we are experiencing. If enough complaints are reported, the DNR will have to take them seriously.

John Bales also gave a very nice primer on drop shotting. The drop shot is one of the most effective systems you can have in your arsenal during the colder part of the season when fish metabolism slows down.

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

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

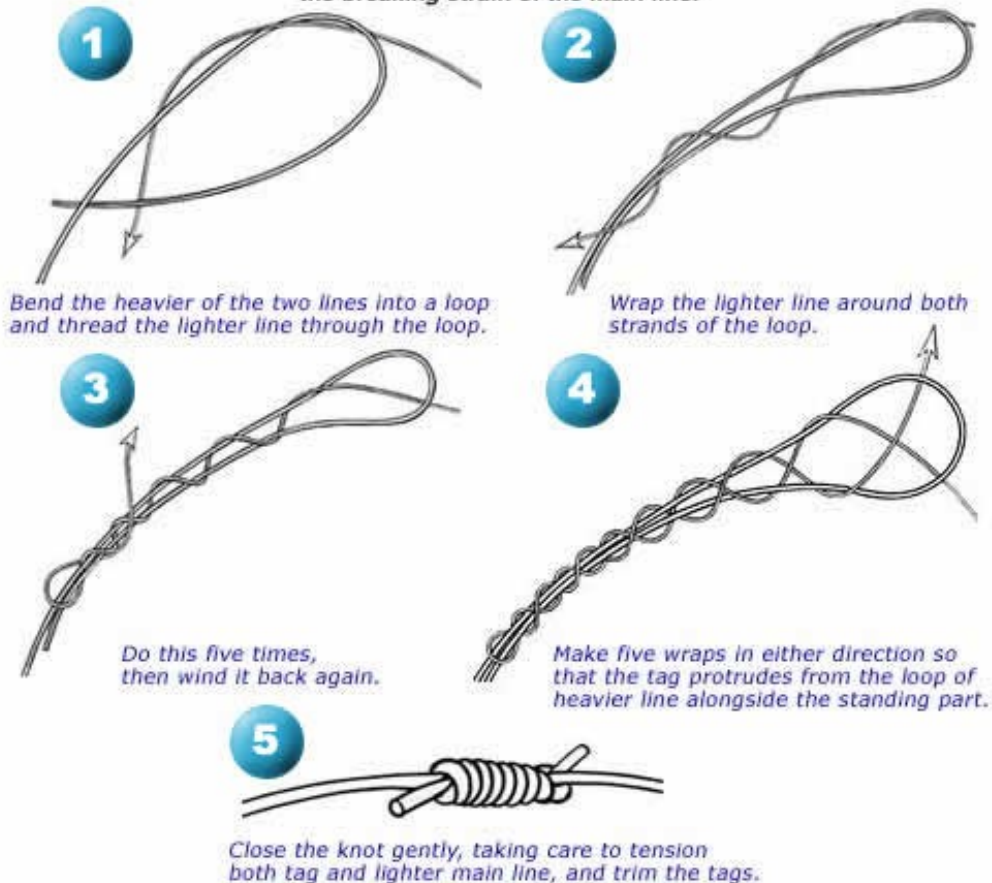


Randy Ireland with one of about 35 northern caught recently on a lake known for it's small northern. Well, not ALL of them! Several were over 30 inches.

Below is an Albright Knot. This is a not just a great knot for joining 2 lines, but is an essential knot for joining up any of the microdynema lines as they are so slick, any other joining knot is tempting fate!

## The Albright Knot

*The Albright Knot is a standard connection used to join two monofilament lines of different diameters. It is best suited for attaching leaders of around three or four times the breaking strain of the main line.*

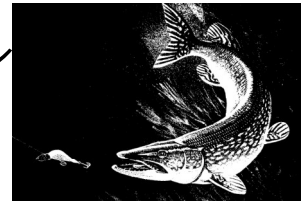


“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



## **Depth Meters**

A depth meter is a tool to aid us in locating productive structure, identifying break lines and help in keeping our lures in position. Most of us old guys grew up with flashers. Flashers have an instant reading, meaning that the depth that you see is the depth that is directly under your boat at idle speed or running 30 miles per hour. What this enables us to do better than any other type of unit is make an adjustment (either a turn in our out) to stay on a particular depth or break line better than any other type of depth finder. When we view a flasher, the image that we see is there and gone in a fraction of a second. We must interpret what is seen at that moment and then it is gone. The benefit of a down-scan unit is that they can be used along side of our flashers to confirm what was seen on the flasher to be accurate. Not just to compare but the image of a down scan unit is in such detail, what we used to have to visualize is now so much more clear.

Yesterday I was fishing Webster Lake for the musky. I was going to anchor on the hump that is off of the end of the bar in the second hole after trolling it. As I was running around it to find the finger off of the one end towards the island using the flasher, I took a quick look at the down scan unit and the image was quite amazing. At 26 feet, it looked like a wall had been built and the base of the hump stood out like a sore thumb. The question that comes to mind is would I have noticed this with the flasher? Keep in mind that when using a flasher only, everything that you see must be interpreted and then visualized in your mind. Also keep in mind that when running around any point, looking for the best finger to anchor on, you are not necessarily going to be staying at an exact depth while doing this. But you still will be able to interpret where the finger will be. An exact depth of the base break line can still be found by running directly off of the finger towards the deeper water with the flasher but It is doubtful that the fisherman would have gotten both of the answers to where the finger was and the base break line all in one pass. It just so happened that a glance of the down scan showed the base immediately.

No one pays me to sell the down-scans. My personal use of them allows me to help interpret what I see on a flasher to be more exact and true. My presentation of lures has not changed one iota. I do not rely on a down-scan to do any of the work that it takes to eliminate the unproductive waters on any particular day, however it is a great aid to the Spoonpluggger that uses it as it should be used.

*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.

\* \* \* \* \*

*“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 ”**