



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held August 19 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members present.

Most discussion centered around the "Buck Sez":

The 2013 Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Network Outing was the most well attended ever. 66 Spoonpluggers and spouses signed and the count was over 90 with friends and family included for the Saturday night fish fry and raffle/give-a-way. The count was 32 on Thursday night and 58 on Friday night as well.

It seems to happen every year and this year was no exception...a cold front moved through on Wednesday prior which slowed the fishing success, but since this was a Spoonplugging event, we did not lack for fish. Spoonpluggers were even advised to not bring in any more fish on Saturday due to the achievement of many Spoonpluggers on Thursday and Friday and as a result, we fried up 11 one-gallon bags of fish on Saturday.

As you can determine from the photos, some very nice fish were caught despite the cold-front conditions.

Each night was enhanced by the "flaming Jenga" campfire provided by our local professional pyromaniac Lance Richards and his donation of practically an entire ash tree! The weather conditions

may not have been normal for August, and so the campfires were welcome relief from some chilly nights. In fact, it was actually the nicest weather for camping of any outing event yet.

The raffle offered up some very nice donations of items, including custom made rods, compliments of Spoonplugger Mike Beck of Maple Lake, Minnesota, a nice frame of Spoonplugs, and many, many other nice prizes. Thanks goes to everyone donating articles for the give-a-way.

Each evening ended with everyone gathering around the campfire or under the canopies for gab-sessions. Some of them even involved Spoonplugging topics! For instance, Dan King brought in a couple of Spoonplugs he's used in Florida to demonstrate what happens to a Spoonplug when you hook an alligator. (hint: you probably can't troll with it ever again!)

The Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers have already set the date of the 2014 "Buck Sez" Outing: August 13, 14, 15, & 16th, 2014 at the Forest Ridge Campground, NW of Columbia City, Indiana. Mark your calendars, and we hope to see you in 2014.

NEXT MEETING: September 16, 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



John Zaborny (right) and brother Mike below (right) and Bart Albright (left) vie for biggest toothy critter.



John Bales (above) and Shawn Nicodemas (below) had a "Battle of the Titan" for the best stringer. Judge for yourself.



Ted Malo's wife out-fished him with this out-sized bass.

Below, NIS President Denny Coulardot preparing for another evening around the campfire.



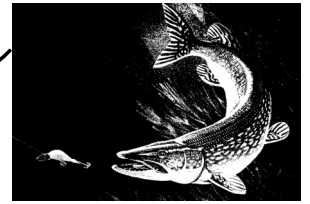
Um, I'm not exactly sure what to say about the above photo!!!

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Let's spend a day on the water. It's the middle of the summer. A cold front has gone through and we are facing a second day after a front with mile high skies. It's Saturday morning and we just spent five hard days in a row working so that we can spend a day on the water. If we waited for conditions to be perfect, we would end up fishing about three days a year because that's about how often our days off would match up with a good weather condition. So we go anyway. We are facing a 14 foot weedline and we could care less what kind of fish gets in the way as long as something does. We start out tight to the weedline with a 250 to see if any fish might be suspended up the weedline a ways. We go for a distance and then go to a 200 and let out a bit more line. We check this for about 30 minutes, going around a couple good bars without hitting a fish. We then go to a 100 and let out enough line to just barely bump the bottom just outside the weedline. A return pass around the two bars are made with several more passes from different directions near the contact point on each bar. Nothing yet. We continue to check as deep as we should for this time of year and now the question comes to mind. Now what? What's my next move? Before you read on, what is your next move? Aha! You cheated didn't you?

I assumed that you were checking your speeds while trolling with all the size lures. Of course you know if you did a good job or not of keeping your lures in position. Making good decisions depends on how good of a troller you become. Mr. Perry said that our trolling is our teacher. It will tell us all of the when, where, what, why and how in our fishing. A great Spoonplugger is one that adapts to the conditions that we face at the time that we are on the water. There are many ways to catch a fish. One of the best tools besides the free running bottom bumping lures are the jump type lures. Our jump type lures work best in the cold water season and when fishing during post frontal conditions. The jump type lures give us the slower speed controls needed when the fish are deeper and less active. At some point you will need to spend enough time using jump type lures so that when they are necessary, you will be ready. This season, I spent a lot of time learning how to use a drop shot rig. If you haven't spent any time doing this, it is one of the best use of the slower speed controls that I have ever used. It has saved the day for me on several trips this year and I would not be without it. We will go over the rigging and its uses at the next meeting.

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:

What ‘triggers’ the activity and movements of the fish?”

There is no question that it is a weather condition. But, we doubt if anyone knows the **exact** part that starts and stops the movements. It could be a combination of many things. We have our ideas but we have no definite FACTS. We feel LIGHT plays a major role, and Buck can quite often predict when a movement is about to begin, or when one is in progress, by his observations of the light present. He uses his LIGHT observations as his guide to the activity and movements of the fish—for he says: “If my light observations give me the answers, that’s good enough for me.”

One thing we should all agree on is the movements of the fish are not “triggered” or controlled by their hunger. We would have a hard time figuring out why all the fish in the lake become hungry at the same time. And, it would not explain the activity and movement without feeding. A game fish can be made to “strike”—this is his nature. We never expect to catch our fish feeding, but we’re happy when this occurs.

You may want to know if the moon has any effect on the fish? We have not been able to find any relationship between movements and the phase of the moon. If there were any, we are quite sure local weather and water conditions would completely wreck it.

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“Are fish of all sizes and age groups bunched up together down in the deep water?”

The study material said the smaller fish were not compatible with the larger fish. We classify the smaller fish into a group, called “yearlings.” These are normally from one to three years old. Some may be older, but where growth is good, you can view the smaller fish group as being of this age. A better way probably to view the smaller fish would be to say, until they reach about 2-2 1/2 pounds, they are not compatible with the larger fish. When the larger fish get on the move, the yearlings scoot to the safety of the shallows.

You will find, in some instances, where a school of bigger fish are all about the same size. At other times, they will come in several different sizes. The age, fertility, and reproduction of a body of water would have a bearing on the sizes in any particular school.

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“Are there fishing situations where the fish, when they move towards shallower water, do not move toward or along structure such as bars, but will move shallower by going ‘vertically’ toward the surface?”

This Spoonplugging (structure fishing) study is primarily concerned with the larger species of game fish (bass, walleye, northern pike, muskies, stripers, etc.). However, there are certain water situations and certain species of fish where part of a movement may be, at times, directly toward the surface. The fish may be “drawn” toward the surface due to some attraction or “noise.” However, all the movements would be related to structure or some bottom feature; AND, the upward movement (toward the surface) will occur only AFTER the fish become active and moving. In a later study we will discuss fishing situations where a part of a migration may be vertical. But to CONSISTENTLY put fish on our stringer, “structure” (features of the bottom the fish use) is still our guide to where most of the CATCHABLE fish may be found.

“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”