



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held July 21, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members present. Much of the meeting revolved around the upcoming **Annual "Buck Sez" Network Outing** August 13-16th at Forest Ridge Campground (5000 N. Elder Rd. Larwill, IN 46764 (260) 327-3551).

We will be putting up the canopies on Wednesday evening. Any members that can volunteer to help will be appreciated.

Evening meals are planned and members have volunteered for various meals, however if members can bring side dishes to round out the meals, that would also be helpful. Here's the meal schedule:

Wednesday Mike Whirrett will fix Sloppy Joes.

Thursday Dan and Norene Luley will do pulled pork.

Friday Dave Gould and Terry Keenan will have baked beans and hot dogs.

Saturday Night fish fry will begin at 6:00 P.M. and we already have some exceptionally nice things donated for the raffle following the fish fry and I'm sure there will be other items coming in during the outing. You won't want to miss it!

Fishing reports were fair. Northern fishing has turned on and many nice catches were reported. There were a couple of mentions of the thermocline appearing on many lakes at 10-11 feet. As a result, most reported no fish being caught below that depth. The recent cold front conditions may have disturbed the thermocline but more stable conditions are setting in and the conditions for the "Buck Sez Outing" should be favorable.

John gave a very interesting report on his recent week-long trip to Lake Charlevoix in northern Michigan and surrounding lakes with his wife, Deb. Good quality fishing followed by evenings at the nearby casino provided an exhaustive week that took several days to recover from once it was over! Lake Charlevoix is a large expanse of water and it took a couple of days for them to figure out where to concentrate their efforts. Good catches of several species were the result. Anyone planning a trip to the Charlevoix area would do well to contact John for details to some productive areas.

Shawn Nicodemus gave a brief report on a recent fishing trip to Allegan Lake in mid-Michigan. He was able to get into a casting position and catch smallmouth for over 4 hours and up to 4 pound smallies! His arms were so tired he had to drive home by steering with his feet!

We ended the meeting by watching a couple of videos produced by Jim Duplex that are featured on the Spoonplugger Forum (you can also find some on YouTube) Jim does a extraordinary job on the videos. If you haven't seen any of his videos it is well worth your time and effort to watch them.

Hope to see many of you at the Outing!!

NEXT MEETING: August 18, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Above-Randy Ireland with a nice early season northern



Above and below- Dave Gould with some nice northern and Terry Keenan with a nice fat large-mouth

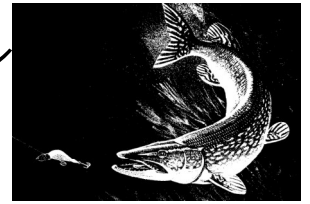


“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



At our last meeting, Shawn Nicodemus put up a photo of a live well full of smallmouth bass. Turns out that they were his. I had drawn a map for him to use if he decided to stop and fish this body of water. The most satisfying thing for me is that he was able to interpret the structure situation, controlled his depth and speed, got into an anchoring position and made a great catch. Good job Shawn!

Today I got a fishing report from Scott Duff. A couple of years ago he came down and we spent a couple of days on the water. One of the things that he wanted to learn was how and where to fish a jig. Mr. Perry said that a jig is part of our tools and we should carry enough weights and sizes to cover the slower depths and speeds when needed. Scott went to a local lake that he had never fished before and made a nice catch, using what was learned during the time that we spent on the water. He used his Spoonplugging knowledge to arrive at the best fishing spots and caught his fish on 7 different spots that he interpreted as fishing water.

Mark Persons is the guy I work with every day. This is his 2nd season of Spoonplugging. He had asked me about Klinger Lake and for a year; he has not liked my response. I always told him that he was not yet good enough to fish that lake. He finally ended up going for the first time and had a great day. He caught a lot of nice bass up to 19 1/2 inches and a lot of 17-18 inch fish to go with it. He caught them from 20 feet deep all the way down to 36 feet on that particular day. He ended up in a casting position on a few spots that day but could not get them on the cast. Everything came on the troll. Brett Christianson called me last week and said that he took some relation of his fishing and this guy had never held a fishing rod in his life. The guy ended up catching a 4lb smallmouth bass and Brett told me that he (himself) was the happiest person in the boat! I feel the same way when I see others having fishing success. As long as others (new people) are having success, I know that Spoonplugging will always be around when I am not.

My hat is off to those who have the desire and determination, and willingness to put forth the effort!

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.

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“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 ”