



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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**PRESIDENT: Denny Coulardot**

**(260 ) 691-3118**

**SECRETARY: Ted Walter**

**(260 ) 668-0216**

**EDUCATION DIRECTOR: John Bales**

**(260 ) 854-3921**

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

President Denny brought in some old *National Spoonpluggers Newsletters* and several *Fishing Facts* magazine to pass around and give to any collectors in the club. The information in old publications may be 35-40 years old, but is just as pertinent today as the day it was originally published. The articles parallel information contained in the Green Book and Study Guides but may be worded a little differently and some are written by authors other than Mr. Perry. Reading the various articles that are written slightly differently may drive home some aspects of Spoonplugging that may have been overlooked, forgotten or just misunderstood from the original writings. As such, we should never pass up reading these vintage publications because they still contain enlightenment.

Denny reported that he and Mike Price have been keeping track of his catches for several years now and tallied the following from 2006-2013:

Musky-493

Northerns-3,674

He indicated that the last muskies he caught for the season were at 34 feet and John Bales reported catching white bass recently at 55 to 60 feet (with 20 mph winds!!)

Denny also informed everyone that *Janns Netcraft* (Toledo, Ohio) is now carrying tungsten-carbide rod tips. These are nearly a requirement for wire line and any of the braided or micro-dynema line rods

and many Spoonpluggers put them on all rods as an insurance policy against degraded lines.

John Bales announced he will soon have a new line of "silver-buddy" type jump lures available. He brought in a 1/2 oz and 3/4 oz prototype and has a larger one on the drawing board. He is presently facing a bottleneck in that company he works for is presently too busy to begin production on them. They should be ready for sale prior to next season.

Check out the website: <http://johnnyb-lures.com/> John also gave a lecture on casting jump type lures. He explained that we must realize the fact that when making a long cast, the first several hops are longer and at a faster speed than when the lure gets closer to the boat. He drew a sketch illustrating why this is true. The lesson is that you must be aware of this fact and if you are catching fish closing to the boat than farther away, it COULD indicate the fish want a slower speed. This would be true unless you are casting to a school that continues to move closer to the boat as you catch fish from the group which is typical. Conversely, if you are catching fish farther from the boat it could indicate that the speed needs to be increased as they school moves closer to the boat. Just something to keep in mind as many casters use the same speed all the time throughout the season never realizing that speed on the cast is just as important as speed on the troll.

**NEXT MEETING: January 20, 2014 at  
the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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

### Photo Tips

The following is a reprint of tips I received on-line several years ago from Spoonpluggers concerning photographing fish for our newsletters. I got back some great suggestions. Many of the same tips came from different people, so I have tried to condense them into what you see below:

Always try to take the picture of your subject with the sun in their face (and to your back, being mindful of your own shadow!) This gives you full advantage of the natural light. You can lose color and detail by shooting the photo into the sun.

ALWAYS-ALWAYS-ALWAYS USE A FLASH. By using a flash, even in bright daylight, you will enhance the colors and remove shadows from the subjects face.

LOSE THE SUNGLASSES. Sunglasses are important to save your eyes from ultraviolet light, but they do nothing for making a good fish picture. Have your subject tilt their cap or hat back if they must keep it on in order to not throw a shadow on the eyes/forehead. The eyes tell a whole lot about the person's mood and they may have just caught that fish-of-a-lifetime. You want to let their eyes and smiles tell the story.

Take the time to compose your shot, if possible. Put the fish in the livewell for the moment and plan the shot. (Unless you are keeping the fish. (This may not apply to muskies or northerns or other species that might experience greatly reduced odds for survival the longer they remain out of water) Remember, you cannot duplicate the effort afterwards if you realize you did not get a good photo.

Frame your shot before you retrieve the fish from the livewell and rehearse with your subject how you plan to shoot the picture. Look for a photo-enhancing backdrop. Look through the camera viewer and beware of the background. Scan what's in back of the subject; power lines, trees that might appear to poke out of the subject's head, jet trails, etc. You don't want anything to detract from the fish or the fisherman/woman.

Most of us shoot too far away! Fill the view-finder with your subject and the fish. We don't often care what kind of boots or shoes they're wearing!

Take time to check that shirts are on and buttoned. Get rid of cigarettes, soft drink cans, etc!

Check the settings on your camera and make certain you are ready. OK, time to take the pictures. Get the fish and get the subject back in place as rehearsed. Have the subject hold the fish up and look at the fish, NOT at the photographer. You probably won't have to remind him/her to smile, but it's tradition!

DON'T-DO NOT-EVER-EVER HOLD THE FISH OUT AT ARM'S LENGTH FROM YOUR BODY. First off, it does not fool anybody. Second, it looks silly. You can hold the fish approximately 1/3 of your arm length away from your body without looking silly. Remember, the hand holding the fish gives the size away every time

As a picture taker, you can stoop down lower than your subject or have the subject stand on the casting deck. By shooting the picture at a *slightly upward angle*, you increase the focal plane (makes the fish LOOK longer, without calling the viewer's attention to the 'trick' you're playing.) Be careful, *be very careful*, you can have TOO much of an angle which will end up looking silly again!

Make certain your camera is level with the background.

Move quickly, but carefully and take several pictures. The odds of getting a good one increase by doing so. You're only going to get this one chance with that fish. Make the most of it. It's better to err on the side of extra copies than to not have any good pictures.

This is almost cheating, but it makes a great picture so I'll include it. When you catch a medium-size fish, 3-4-5 pound bass or 10-15 pound northern, have a child hold the fish. Makes the fish look gigantic!

Lastly, let's assume that you catch a possible World, State, Line Class "RECORD FISH". There are some very specific steps you need to take:

DON'T SUBMIT THE PHOTOS AT THE ANGLES ALLUDED TO ABOVE! OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE IMPRESSED! DO FOLLOW THE OTHER GUIDELINES AND BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE ROD AND THE LURE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH ON IN THE PHOTO.

CUT OFF APPROXIMATELY 10 FEET OF LINE TO SUBMIT WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

BE SURE TO GET AS MANY WITNESSES AS YOU CAN TO THE CATCHING AND THE WEIGHING OF THE FISH.

BE SURE TO WEIGH THE FISH ON A "STATE CERTIFIED" SCALE AND GET THE OWNER/EMPLOYEE'S HOME INFORMATION ALONG WITH THE BUSINESS'S INFORMATION.

BE SURE TO GET THE STATE CERTIFICATION NUMBER FROM THE SCALES.

WEIGH THE FISH ONCE AND ONLY ONCE.

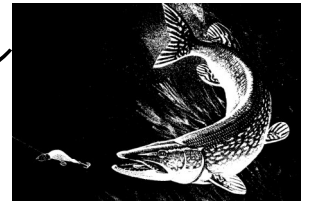
Many record fish have been disallowed for not following these guidelines.

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



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Another season has come and gone and it is time to think about the upcoming season. We are very lucky that Mr. Perry did all the hard work and put his knowledge down in writing. I have said this before but it needs to be repeated. It would be difficult to swallow if at the end of a fishing day, the outcome would not be understood. Knowledge is still the key to fishing success. All you need to do is watch fishing shows all day long and listen to what they say is the key to their success. On one show I was watching, a guy had a camera near a spawning bass and was recording the fish swimming around the bed. He said that it was important to watch the fish and see what stage of the spawning that the fish was in. To view if the fish was actually guarding the fry and to see if the fry was suspended. These observations were important in deciding how and if the fish were catchable off of the beds. What a bunch of crap!!!!!! These guys are running out of things to say. It is still all about how much fishing tackle they can sell and getting sponsors. The reasons that fishermen give as to how and why to catch a fish is the whole reason that Mr. Perry went out on his own to get the true fishing facts. When Mr. Perry was a young man, he asked a lot of questions on why the fisherman fishes the way that they do. Everyone had a different opinion and there was no scientific or verifiable evidence involved with any of their comments. So he did it himself.

Are there other ways to catch a fish besides Spoonplugging? Yes there is. There are many ways or so called methods to catch a fish. If you want to master all of the other so called methods of fishing, the best way to understand each one is to master Spoonplugging first. Your Spoonplugging knowledge will guide you as to when it may be time to check out the other depths and speeds. Controlling our depths and speeds around the features that the fish are using is one of the keys to our success.

Fishing success cannot be had without becoming a good troller. Our trolling will tell us exactly when and how to approach a group of fish once they are found. The exact fishing situation and your interpretation of it will dictate what should be the next move in order to put the most fish in the boat. The amount of experience that you have will determine if you get this group of fish in the boat or not.

Knowing where you are at all times can be the deciding factor in catching a bunch of fish or not. Markers and or shoreline sightings can make all the difference in the world in our efforts. Do not rely on a GPS to do this work for you. A GPS is a great tool for getting you close to the real fishing water but once you get close, the markers should be thrown. A GPS cannot interpret a fishing situation.

Mapping is an important part of our learning. I will only say that if you can't draw it, you probably don't know what is there anyways. You will need to work that much harder to figure it out.

I have talked about setting your own personal goals before. Years ago, I set a goal to become as good as the best. I wanted to be as good as Terry O'Malley. I would constantly go through the green book and look at the big stringers of bass and those stringers did not come as often as I wanted. Those big catches came a little later in my efforts but I soon realized that there is no such thing as the best. The reason for that is we can always get better in our fishing. And getting better is what this is all about!!!!!!

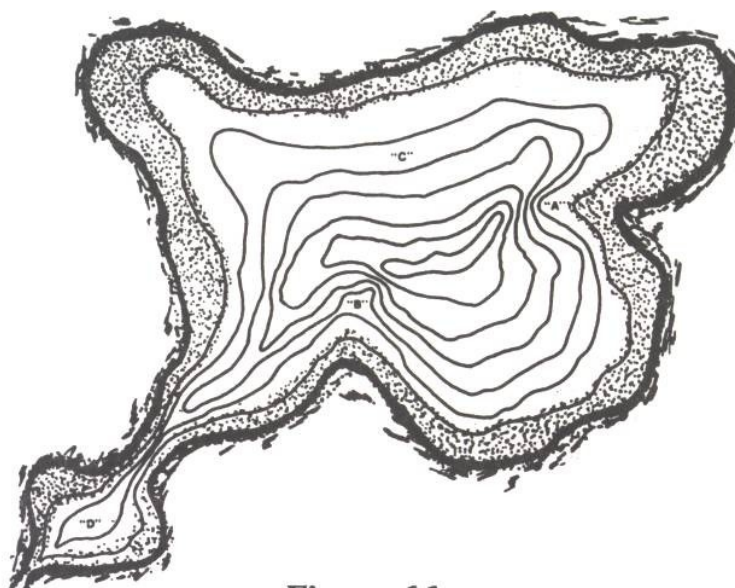
Good Spoonplugging  
John Bales

**“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:**



**Figure 11**

Figure 11 is a top view of a **natural** lake, and it contains a variety of fish—bass, walleye, northern pike, etc. When viewing the migration of fish from a **SEASONAL** point of view, it is somewhat different from that found in reservoirs. This does not imply the habits and instincts of fish are different, but in most natural lakes the **STRUCTURES USED DO NOT CHANGE, BUT WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE SEASON**. However, if by chance your natural lake has the same features as discussed in the reservoir—short structure—steep shorelines, etc., then the same principle would apply. Those natural lakes with a stream flowing through, such as a lake chain and some wider sections of streams at times called lakes, often have features as found in reservoirs.

Figure 11 shows the contour and structure available in a natural lake. Added to this is a shallow channel or slough leading off to a small expanse of water. This could be a small shallow lake connected to the main lake by a narrow channel.

The deepest water in the lake is a large section in the center of the larger body of water. This would be the home of the fish (winter or summer). In studying the structure available, there are two main structures in the form of a bar (A & B). The section marked “C” has no well-defined structure, breakline, nor breaks. It is a flat, sloping bottom. The **breaklines** that occur on structures A and B are the only “steep” bottoms available. Thus they would be the **shortest** route to shallower water for limited or scattered migrations—just like the steeper sections of a reservoir. These would give the fish an immediate drop-back or access to the **deepest** water. So, in early season, and pre-spawn season, these steeper sections of the structure would be used.

As the pre-spawn season approaches, it is highly probable that in certain weather and water conditions, some fish may migrate for short periods into the feeder channel leading to the backwaters of the slough or small shallow lake. The possibility of this would increase as the spawning season approaches.

In the overall picture, the two main structures (A & B) would be considered as the main migration routes for both cold and warm seasons. In the colder pre-spawn period, the deeper breaks and breaklines would receive the **SHORT, SCATTERED, UNPREDICTABLE** migrations. As the season progresses, the movements should become better and better and be more to the shallow portions of the structures. During the spawning season, the most productive shallow places in the lake should be in the near shallows of those two main structures. If the lake has a slough or a small channel leading off into a bay, or a small section such as “D”, then this too should be checked. After the spawning season, the same main structures (A & B) would receive the migration as per weather and water conditions that exist.

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