



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 6

#237

FOUNDED 1991

July 2014

**PRESIDENT: Denny Coulardot**

**(260 ) 691-3118**

**SECRETARY: Ted Walter**

**(260 ) 668-0216**

**EDUCATION DIRECTOR: John Bales**

**(260 ) 854-3921**

The last meeting was held June 16, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library with 11 members present.

Water temperature have finally recovered to seasonal summertime norms and the northerns are beginning to respond. The largemouth were reported to be moving away from the inside of the weedlines in most lakes to the outside.

Of course this puts the bass in direct competition and conflict with the northerns that are notorious for cruising the weedline's outer end. As a result, the northerns are quite predictable as they are the top of the food chain in most area lakes, and rule the roost whereas the bass are quite unpredictable and present a greater challenge. They may be tucked back in the weeds, deeper, or suspended out away from the breaklines.

That does not present a problem for the Spoonplugger PROVIDING that the guidelines are followed!

Denny stated that if we are fishing lakes that contain walleye, we should consider using a 3-way rig. An illustration appears in the Green Book using a 3-way swivel. In addition you can make up a 3 foot length of line with a swivel at each end and attach one end into the eyelet of the #8 swivel on your leader. This allows for a quick attachment without retying your terminal tackle. It may not work quite as good as a 3-way swivel, but if you're only running this type of rig once in a while, it saves a lot of time. You can use a stick bait such as a Rapala or a thin spoon also works well.

It was reported that many of the lakes are starting to be sprayed for invasive weed species. Hamilton Lake was recently sprayed and many others have or will soon be as well. The spraying obviously affects the fish so be forewarned. It would be nice if the DNR would either post at the launch site or on a website that lakes that are sprayed and the dates of the spraying. I don't know how long the recovery times are but I would estimate a least a week...perhaps more. Advertisements state that the spraying has little if any effect on the fish species, but I think we all know better!

John reported that he will be going to Lake Charlevoix in northern Michigan for the week following the Leoni Outing in Jackson, Michigan. He will provide a full report at the next meeting.

Our Annual "Buck Sez" Outing is just a few short weeks away. The July meeting will be the planning meeting so we'd appreciate all who can attend. We'll be providing an evening meal for each night. If you have ideas for any of the meals, we invite your input. The fish fry will be on Saturday followed by the usual raffle/giveaway. Volunteers are always welcome.

Also, if you have anything to contribute to the raffle/giveaway, please bring items to the outing and see that Ted, Denny or John receive them.

**NEXT MEETING: July 21, 2014 at the  
Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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

NORTHERN INDIANA  
SPOONPLUGGERS

**\*ALL SPOONPLUGGERS INVITED\***

***ANNUAL "BUCK SEZ" OUTING***

**AUGUST 13, 14, 15 & 16th, 2014**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**BASE CAMP WILL BE LOCATED AT:  
FOREST RIDGE CAMP GROUND  
TENT/RV (260) 327-3551 SWIMMING POOL  
WATER & ELEC. (MENTION NO. IND.  
SPOONPLUGGERS)**

**-or-**

***LEE'S INN SUPER 8 MOTEL BUDGET INN  
235 FRONTAGE ROAD COLUMBIA CITY (260)248-4644  
COLUMBIA CITY, IN 1-800-800-8000  
(260)244-5300***

**MOTELS ARE LOCATED ON US30 IN COLUMBIA CITY  
ABOUT 5 MILES FROM THE  
CAMPGROUND AND WITHIN 15 MILES OF MOST AREA  
LAKES**

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*AREA LAKES INCLUDE: *WEBSTER,  
TIPPECANOE, WINONA, WAWASEE, BARBEE CHAIN,  
CHAPMAN AND MORE.***

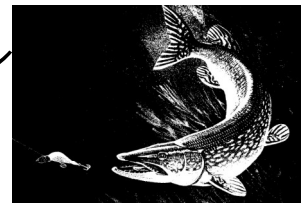
**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:  
DENNY COULARDOT      JOHN BALES  
(260) 691-3118              (260) 854-3921**

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



# Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



What is the correct size lure and line length for the depth being checked at any particular time? If a trolled Spoonplug is not in position, you better figure that it will catch no fish. So how many variables do we need to check to make sure that we have checked out a spot or an area? First of all, we know how deep each lure will run. Each of them is made to run a certain depth with a certain amount of line let out. The more line that is let out (up to a point), the deeper the lure will run. The less line that is let out, the shallower the lures will run. That means that we have all of the variables between our longest lines and our shorter lines for each lure to work with. The green book says that in the early part of the season, we should use the longer lines. As we move into the hotter part of the season, the shorter lines become more important.

The passing of a boat and motor over the top of the fish is an aid for the fisherman. This gets the attention of the fish for a short moment and he is looking around for what is going on. The sooner that we can put a lure in front of that fish while we have his attention, the more of a chance that we have in catching him. In a warm water situation such as this, the shorter lines with larger Spoonplugs placed in the wash of the prop are in order.

In the colder water the fish are still attracted to the passing of the boat and motor overhead but due to the colder water and the fishes slower metabolism, it takes the fish a bit more time to find the boat. This is where the longer lines and smaller lures are in order.

The activity of the fish on a daily or a seasonal basis will be the deciding factor on a correct line length and lure size for the particular time that we are on the water. If you want to see this for yourself, try running two or more rods at once; one with a bigger lure and a short line and one with a longer line and a smaller lure. Each lure and line length will be adjusted so that both lures are just ticking the bottom. When the fish are not very active, the lure that is the farthest away from the boat will produce the most action. When the fish become active, the lure that is near the boat will be more productive. Adjustments can be made during the day to take care of the activity of the fish.

We have read articles by Mr. Perry where he starts out trolling the shallows and begins by running a 500 with 10 yards of line. He runs that line length for a distance and then lets out 20 yards. He runs that length of line for a distance and then lets out 30 yards. He is checking his different line lengths and making the adjustments necessary for the controls of depth and speed that are needed for that particular time that he is on the water.

The make up of the bottom of a lake will be the deciding factor if we can walk our lures directly on the bottom all the time. Some are clean and hard. Some have a lot of snags in all shapes and sizes. Some have weed growth with some short and some tall weeds. Some have moss which may grow as deep as 40+ feet in some lakes. These conditions will be a controlling factor in how close we can run our lures to the bottom. The best condition would be hard and clean. When we can walk our lures, we have the highest percentage of being able to make that fish take our lures. The less that we can walk our lures, the percentage of being able to make that fish take will be less.

Some of our Spoonpluggers wonder why we don't have a chart where exact line lengths produce an exact depth that each particular lure runs. There are too many variables where your line length will have to be adjusted for the condition that you are fishing. A line length will have to be adjusted for a different bottom condition. A snaggy condition will call for a lure just barely ticking the tops of the snags. The same for a weedy or mossy condition. We want our lures just above the moss or weeds with an occasional bumping to let us know that we are close enough. The conditions that we fish may determine which pound test no-bo line that we chose to use. We may want to use 20 lb test No-Bo in snag infested waters or when fishing for the larger species of fish. If the waters that we fish are more easily worked, we may want to settle for the 12 lb test. The 20 lb test will call for more layers let out to attain the same depth as the 12 lb test with the same size lure. The diameter of the spool and how full a fisherman keeps it will effect how many layers it will take to get the lure walking. The gear ratio of the reel will also affect how many times the level wind verses the amount of line that is let out for each time across. The amount of line that is let out per layer will be different from a wide spool reel than a narrow spool reel. Are you beginning to see why we cannot say that ten layers of line let out with a 200 with 12 lb No-Bo will get you exactly 11 feet?

I heard a fisherman ask Mr. Perry a question at one of the outings that he attended. He asked how many layers of wire would it take to get a 100 to run at a depth of 30 feet? Mr. Perry hesitated for a moment. I would guess that in his mind he was wondering why this fellow had not checked this out for himself or why he would not know this already. His answer was used as my guideline for my future line lengths and lure sizes. Mr. Perry said that he goes by feel. A starting line length is let out and then adjustments are made until the exact line length is acquired. Taking note of what line length was let out to begin with and adding to it to make it a correct line length and then remembering that line length for the next pass is all it took. He added to this that if you are not bumping, let out more line. If you are plowing, reel in a layer or two. If you travel a distance and you have not touched, let out 1/2 of a layer at a time until you get it exact. It really is that simple.

*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:**

*“Each time I get to a new section, such as this weather and water study, and after reading your opening remarks, I keep asking myself: Why does he break all this material down into ‘sections?’ Why not state a fact, and then point out what we must do to catch the fish? Why go through all this study on the different subject matter?”*

My reaction to this is practically the same as yours. For too many years, I have preached the basic facts by showing, speaking, and written word. In fact, all the material found in this big study was in the first small sheet printed years and years ago. The reason for this detailed expanded version of Basics is due to the fact the fisherman did not hear, or did not understand. This is by no means a reflection on the intelligence of the fisherman. It was due to what he had heard, said, and done, and what others were saying or doing. His head was filled with doubts and unanswered questions. The purpose of this study is to see if doubts and questions can be so eliminated as **to make more fishermen more aware of fishing facts.**

When all is said and done, all that was ever needed was the Spoonplugger’s Basic Guideline. We have been stressing this point all through this study. That’s all I used, and it was all some of the better fishermen in the country used. If you grasp what was said in the Basic Guideline, you can see it’s all there.

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