



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 6

#236

FOUNDED 1991

June 2014

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The last meeting was held May 19, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members present. It was reported many NIS members are catching numbers of pre-spawn bass. With water temperatures moving into spawning range, that may soon change as the post spawn will slow the bass action considerably. Fortunate for us the northern season will begin at about the same time so will still have something to catch until the bass recover from their spawn.

Denny reported that water temperatures had reached the 70 degree mark but had fallen to 62 degrees following an extended below normal cold snap. Most water temps have recovered and are now in the mid 70's on most lakes. As a result, northerns are now very catchable and should now remain so throughout the summer and into the fall season. The spawning timetables appear to be about 2 weeks behind schedule for most of the Midwest.

Denny also reported that a tournament a couple of weeks prior to our meeting on Lake Webster produced 2-50 inch muskies and several 40's.

John reported on a couple of recent trips: One was a two day trip to Lake St Clair with his son. John claims the St Clair-Detroit River-Lake Erie complex is "the most fabulous smallmouth fishery on the face of the earth." The two day trip yielded 103 smallies up to 6.3 lbs. They concentrated on a dredged channel and structure Terry O'Malley fished many years ago.

John reported the smallmouth will take a free-running Spoonplug MUCH more readily than a largemouth. Unless you are fishing shallower than 10

feet, don't count on catching a largemouth unless you have a walking lure (or very close to it if bottom conditions don't allow). Smallmouth, on the other hand, will take a free running Spoonplug in most instances and at most any depth.

His second trip was a week long trip to Put-In-Bay (South Bass Island) on Lake Erie. This is one of the best spring and fall fisheries...again for smallmouth bass...although there are also opportunities for wall-eye for those so inclined.

The trip requires a ferry ride (Miller's Ferry) to South Bass Island, (about 20 minutes and \$100.00 for auto and boat) and be advised that you may not be able to fish on some days because of weather conditions and the size of our boats. Cabin rental for 6 people is \$700.00 for the week. The cabins aren't that wonderful but the fishing definitely is! Smallies in the 4-5 lb range are not uncommon in any of these areas and they often come in bunches! Typically they are located on the troll and then a casting position is taken and the action can be the highlight of the fishing season!

Several Midwest Network Outing will begin shortly starting with the Leoni Outing June 17-27th in Jackson, Michigan, followed by the Lunker Hunters Muskegon Outing July 9-13th (see next page for details) followed by the Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Outing August 13-16th.

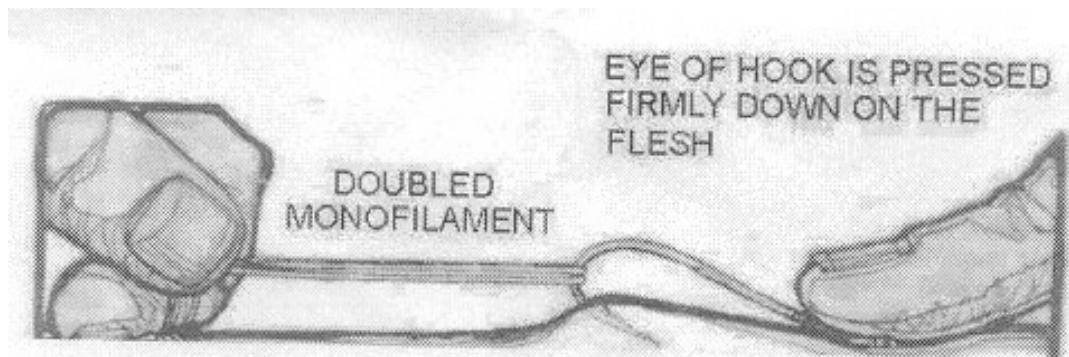
Please take the opportunity to attend one or more of these outings.

**NEXT MEETING: June 16, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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

**Lunker Hunters**  
**Muskegon Lake Network Outing**  
**Fisherman's Landing Campground and Boat Launch**  
**Muskegon, Michigan**  
**July 9-13, 2014**

One of the oldest Spoonplugger network outings begins next month. Although this outing is held on Muskegon Lake and offers some very good fishing a stones-throw from the campground, you are within easy driving distance of other good fishing waters no matter which direction you might want to travel. They include White Lake, Mona Lake, Spring Lake, Stony Lake, Lake Macatawa, and of course, Lake Michigan among many others. This is always an informative outing surrounded by great fishing waters and hosted by the always gracious Lunker Hunters. If you will be camping, you can call Deb at Fisherman's Landing for reservations. (231-726-6100). There are also various area motels close by. For further information contact Chase Klinesteker (616) 949-8665 [ckspoonpl1@aol.com](mailto:ckspoonpl1@aol.com)



*I haven't put this in a newsletter in a while so this is a re-run of a piece from an old newsletter. This is a 10 minute project to have made up (and probably improved upon) that could save you a lot of time, pain, and emergency room bill:*

Sooner or later nearly every fisherman becomes a victim of his own or a fishing partner's hook. A fishing trip can be ruined by a wild cast and most methods I've heard concerning hook removal don't sound that feasible. Like poking the hook on through and cutting off the barb, etc. Might want to carry a bullet to bite on if you try that one.

But, according to several sources within our own club, this is a method that works in a lot of cases. It is nearly painless and has actually been taught in a lot of emergency rooms around the country.

All you need is a piece of strong cord (No-Bo will work fine). Loop the line or cord around the embedded hook. Then press down the eye-end of the hook (for treble hooks it's best to cut off the exposed hooks to make that end as long and easy to press on as possible....and to prevent yet another injury when the hook comes out...which means you should also carry a pair of GOOD high-leverage diagonal cutters that are capable of easily cutting through your stoutest hooks) Pressing downward on the eye-end should make the embedded hook arch upward. Ouch, I know..it hurts, but this is essential. If you're working with a buddy, that part would be a good job for him. This leaves you with both hands to do the next step which is to give the line or cord a good, sharp, crisp YANK. The hook pops out almost painlessly because the barb is prevented from grabbing meat as it exits. It's actually rolling out at an angle that keeps the barb from grabbing onto anything! I've used this method once on Duane Grate and it worked splendidly as it has for several others in our club.

It should be noted that while this method works in many instances, it won't work in each and every case. A hook embedded in the face, for instance, may require a professional touch. As your mother used to say: "You could put an eye out!"

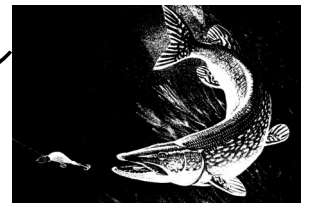
So as a quick project, rig up a cord or line with finger loops for ease of use, a little antiseptic, a couple of band aids, put it all in a zip-lock to tuck in your tackle box and you'll be all set for when you need it.

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



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



## **It's all in your head!**

I am going to a body of water that I have never seen or fished before in my life. We know that this body of water is of the drinking water variety and connects to Lake Michigan. The smallmouth will be our main goal and there are several lakes in the area if our first choice does not pan out. All of the lakes in the area are considered drinking water by a Spoonplugger. So you might ask or you should be asking, why are you going there? A chance at a giant smallmouth would be my only answer and that's good enough for me.

If you are a Spoonplugger, no body of water will ever intimidate you. The knowledge you have gained by trolling and casting will guide you to the best places that you have a chance to catch a fish. Your observations of the local conditions and your knowledge of what fish do seasonally will guide you to the right presentation of lures either trolling or casting. A Spoonplugger will test out the depth's and speeds both trolling and casting throughout the day and arrive at the fish. A Spoonplugger knows that the movements of the fish will be controlled completely by the weather and water conditions and will already have an idea what to expect before he gets on the water. Most experienced Spoonpluggers know that in order to get into the fish consistently, they will have to be on the water early and stay long enough for the fish to become active. And getting into the fish will depend on if the fisherman does a good job of controlling his depth's and speeds constantly throughout the day. We must remember that fish do not move constantly or consistently. This is why we must spend our time in the best places that we have a chance to catch a fish and work them over and over until the fish become active. I will guarantee that if you go about your fishing in this manner and with this attitude, when the fish become active, you will be the first to know it. I will add to this that if anyone catches a fish on a particular day, I will be one of them; even on a lake I've never seen or fished before.

This is the way that a Spoonplugger thinks!!!!

*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 ”**