



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 April 21, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library with 13 members present.

With the ice finally off the lakes, Denny and Mike Price reported that they are catching lots of crappies. However, Denny caught so many crappies this past winter, he's had enough and wants to concentrate his efforts elsewhere. He has caught 9 muskies so far as a result. He reports that the muskies are done with their annual spawning season as are the northerns.

A few northerns are being caught as the waters continue to warm but are a bit slow as yet. In a few weeks they will become very active and some of the biggest northerns can be caught, usually beginning the last couple of weeks in May if the water temperatures continue to rise in area lakes.

Several members indicated they will be attending the Leoni Outing in June 17-22, 2014 in Jackson, Michigan (see Page 2).

We watched some of a video on stripper fishing by Jim Duplex. Jim produces some very good videos. If you haven't seen some of

them, make it a point to take a few minutes and watch them as they are worth your time.

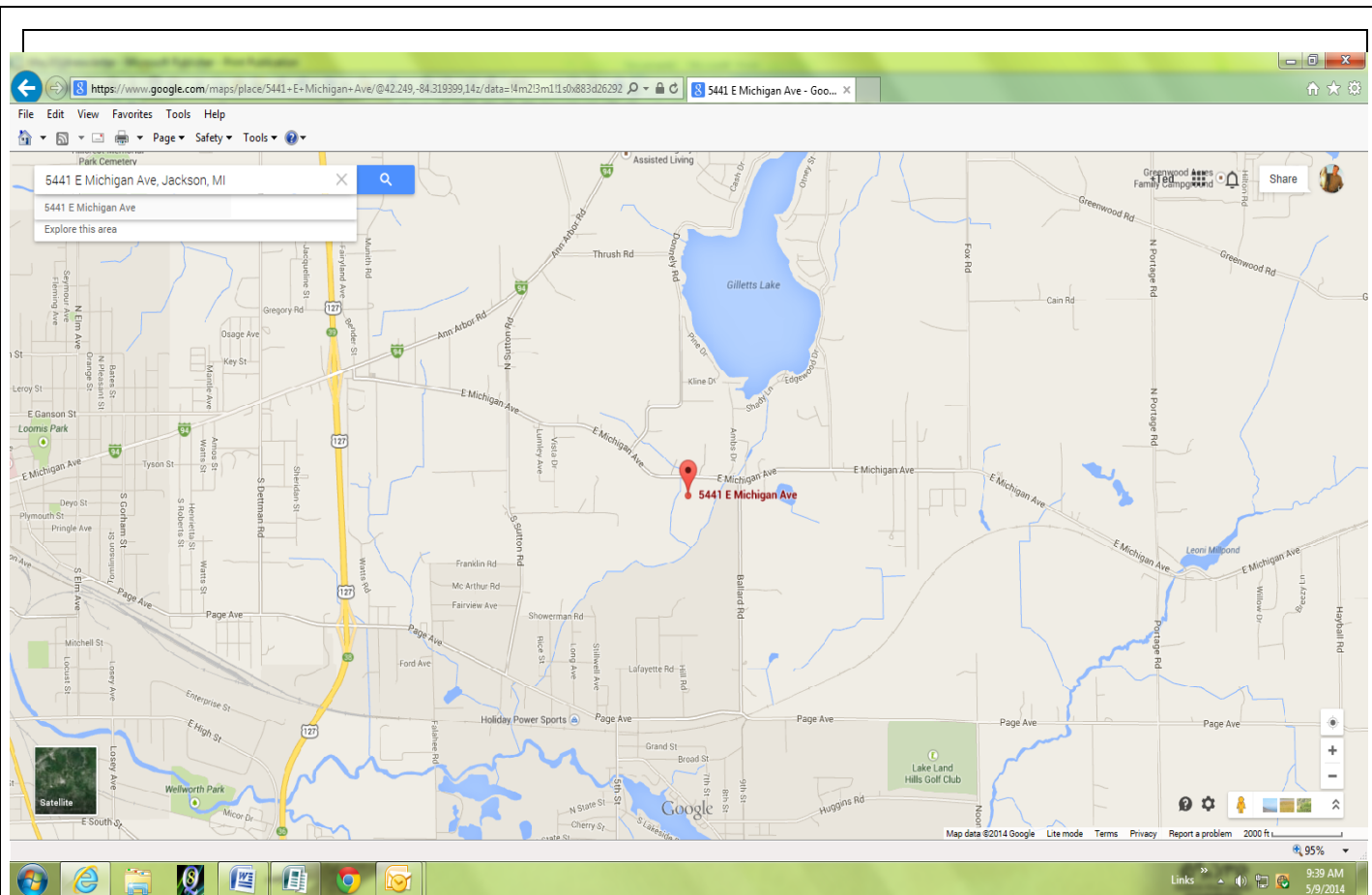
As water temperatures move into the 60's the bass will begin staging for their spawn. Chances are they will remain in their winter home until then, however, you can never tell a fish where they have to be! This is why the guidelines concerning depth and speed are vital...especially this time of year.

If you are fishing for walleye, remember that a 3-way rig utilizing the Spoonplug as your depth gauge is a good tool to check out. A spoon or stick bait is a good choice for the trailer lure. When the fish are rather inactive, they will hit the trailer lure and when they become active, they will hit the Spoonplug.

Also remember that at this time of year, we may be fishing in cooler (and many times unstable) water and often shallower than at other time of the year. As such, using longer lines will typically out-produce the shorter "summertime" lines.

NEXT MEETING: May 19, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Leoni Outing

It is hard to believe, but this will be our 25th Leoni Outing, We use to have it on Ballard Road where I lived, then we moved to Manton, Michigan at Bill King's home, and then to Tawas Bay State Park and now at my home on Michigan Ave. in Jackson, Michigan.

It is amazing what Three divorces will do!

Our outing this year is planned from the **17th to the 22nd of June, 2014**. Same place, **5441 E. Michigan Ave, Jackson, Michigan, 49201**. My number is 517-414-3596 and my email is jszaborny@yahoo.com.

I will have lake maps of the area to fish including over 50 local lakes and the Detroit river and Lake Erie.

We will have breakfast every morning starting at 5:00 AM and dinner every evening about 5:30 PM. The big dinner will be on Saturday about 5:00 PM. T.J. and I have a lot of gifts to give away this year, every year we get nicer stuff.

Remember..... Free food, Free beer, Free pop, Free rustic camping, Free fishing in my pond, Free maps, Free advice, Free breakfast and dinner, Free knowledge, Free weed, Hell, I might even streak this year! All you got to do is get here and buy a new rated fishing license. The best Spoonpluggers in the world will be here just for you to pick their brain. This is not a race weekend so many hotels will be open also.

We are all getting that age when we can drop dead at any time, so just be here and treat every outing as if it were our last.

People that come usually come back. Sometimes they say I am noted to say what is on my mind, so if you get your feelings hurt, get insulted or if I drop a pencil and try to look up someone's dress, don't worry about it, it is only me! And please someone remind me to get a group picture this year....See you in June...

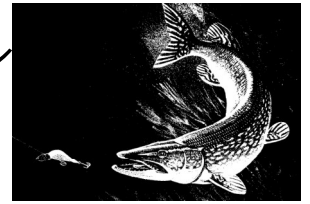
Love John and T.J. Leoni Spoonpluggers

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



I recently came back from a trip to the Bass Islands. The smallmouth bass are always the fish that we want to catch. When a trip is planned, you are always forced to fish under the conditions that we are faced with. It is always wise to fish often enough to at least have some kind of idea if the fish are in pre-spawn, spawn, or post spawn. We always take plenty of tackle so we are ready for any fishing situation.

Fishing the bigger waters is no different than going to a small natural lake. Trolling is the best way to find out what is going on and the shallows is where we start. The smallmouth bass is different than the largemouth. When checking out the depth's shallower than 8-10 feet, we must run our lures half way down in order to see if they are not directly on the bottom. The smallmouth will take a free running lure much more often than the largemouth and it is a must to check out your depths while checking out the speeds. I have had days that I did not check out a free running lure up off of the bottom and ended up finding out that I was running under the fish all day long. This is very important when the smallies are involved.

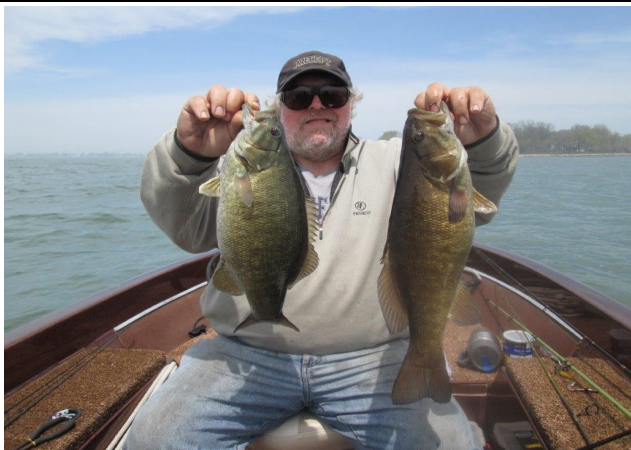
Our timing on this trip was not great but you deal with whatever the conditions are and it is up to the fisherman to check out his depths and speeds to arrive at the fish. This would include both the trolling and casting. The casting in the colder waters would include jump baits like the tube jig and blade baits.

Our first day yielded 57 fish, the second day 37, the third 18 and the day that we headed home we only got 8. Our largest fish weighed 5.8 lbs and we had several over 5. The conditions were such that it was difficult to get them on the cast. Trolling produced 95% of the fish. Any time two fish were caught in the same area, we went to the cast but results on the cast were not consistent.

The water temperature started out at 53 and made it to 58 in the 3 1/2 days that we had on the water. It was a warm front that went through but a front is a front and the fish were effected which was shown by our catches... or the lack of them.

As Spoonpluggers, we used our knowledge and followed the guidelines and the weather and water conditions controlled the movements of the fish just like it always does. Big water, small waters, we do not vary from our guidelines and we catch whatever the conditions allow. As much as we would love to make a great catch which Lake Erie can provide, we have to take what it gives us. Even on a bad day on this body of water, it is one of the greatest places to fish on this earth.

Good Spoonplugging
John Bales



A double caught by John Bales and new Spoonplugger Mark Persons on Lake Erie

“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:

In working tall weeds, the different size lure should be worked alongside these weeds, and just as close to them as possible.

The contour of the weedline is not being followed properly if the lure is continually fouled—this indicates the lure is too close. Neither is the contour being followed properly if the lure is never fouled—this indicates the lure is too far out. After a few passes, especially if a marker is used, the route to take should be known.;

If any fish movement has extended back into the weeds, this does not mean all the fish are in the weeds—some will still be along the outer edge. Quite often fish move up to the weedline, but do not penetrate or go back into the weeds.

* * * * *

A mistake too often made by fishermen is to put too much faith in one particular size lure that can work only one section of water. At times, this particular size may be the greatest thing ever developed—but, it could have been used earlier or later, and as far as catching fish is concerned, was a piece of junk.

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After working all sections of the shallows and as deep as possible on the structure, and no fish are found, the question arises—“What should be done now?”

- * If the area just fished is known to be productive, exercise patience for the fish to move, with efforts concentrated as deep on the migration route as possible. Preferably at the spot where fish first make contact with the structure (contact point).
- * If there is some doubt the water at this particular structure has been “strained” thoroughly—repeat all steps.
- * If there is any question or doubt concerning the direction of nature of this structure, work it until its exact nature is known.
- * Check other shorelines for additional structures. As many of these as possible should be known. In looking for structures and working them, you not only learn the lake, but the experience gained is invaluable.
- * When additional hot-spots and structures are known, these should be checked. Some particular condition could delay migration in one particular area, but not in another.
- * Run shallows for stragglers, periodically returning to check structures for migration.

However, a word of caution—don’t go tearing up and down the lake trying to find fish at the expense of thoroughness. Work each structure thoroughly before leaving it.

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When Trolling in deep water, some fishermen experience difficulty in returning to the same spot where a fish has been caught. This difficulty can be overcome by using markers and shoreline sightings.

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The fisherman who learns SPOONPLUGGING will always expect to catch his limit of fish and anything less will be understood. The only things that should defeat a SPOONPLUGGER is the extreme weather conditions such as a cold front, or the time spent on the waters was not long enough to include a migration, or to find the good areas.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”