



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held October 20, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library with 21 members present.

Dan King, our club's Spoonplug historian, brought in some Spoonplugs that had "SPOONPLUG" stamped into the metal on the wing of the lures. Dan thinks Buck produced these in the late 1940's. He also had box labeled "Spinplug" that we thought was a printing error, however, for a short time, Buck produced aluminum Spoonplugs (Spinplugs) for spinning outfits. Mostly 500's 400' and 250's although there may have been some even larger lures produced. They would be very rare.

Several members had been having good success catching panfish using spinner rigs on saddles and ends of bars. Although fishing in general has been pretty tough lately, Denny reported some good catches of crappie in and around the bottom of deep holes...just above the bottom. This will be their home for the winter as crappie are deep water fish in winter.

It was also reported that many of the lakes had completely lost their thermoclines but a few thermoclines remained in deeper lakes. Those thermoclines were getting deeper and are obviously gone altogether by the time you receive this.

John explained that the thermocline, which is not only just another breakline, it is a very important feature to be aware of as many fish relate to the thermocline at the point where it intersects the shoreline. Knowing the depth of the thermocline is therefore an important piece of information...WHEN a thermo-

cline exists. Some lakes don't produce a thermocline due to current or just not enough summer heat to produce one.

The rule of thumb is the turnover is complete by the time the last leaves fall from the trees. That usually signifies that the fish can be ANYWHERE in the water column, however, with the typical unstable weather conditions of the fall season in the Midwest, that means most of our target fish will be in deeper, more stable water. With the temperatures at 20 degrees below normal for an extended period, it won't be long before ice-up so if you have the opportunity, this is the time to make some of the best catches of the year.

John also explained various options in comparing graphs, flashers, downscan and sidescan features on many of the newer graphs. He explained that the flasher is still the best tool for trolling because it produces the fastest readout allowing for better boat control. The newer graphs, such as the Humminbird and Lowrance that have the downscan feature can also be an effective tool. Being able to distinguish groups of fish, their approximate size and their relationship to bottom features as well as the thermocline has been an eye-opening experience for many Spoonpluggers. It takes a bit of skill, practice and patience to learn the various features and interpreting the output, but the challenge of learning the value of a new tool should be right up most Spoonplugger's alley!

NEXT MEETING: November 17, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Kevin Echterling's nephew caught this 45 Inches long 16 1/2 pound musky on Webster Lake 10/08/14 fishing with Kevin on his nephew's first time out Spoonplugging! Not a bad first fish!



Two of five nice late season small-mouth caught casting known features on Clear Lake (11/9/14 on a cold and windy day) All thanks to John Bales for his masterful boat handling abilities!

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



It is not my intention to point fingers at any one person or persons when giving my opinion on how much time a fisherman must spend on the water in order to have any amount of success. Second of all, after preaching for over 30 years on the amount of effort that is needed to see some fishing success, I have also seen that you cannot make someone do something that they don't want to do. And Deb has preached to me over the years that I cannot expect someone else to have the same enthusiasm and drive as I do.

This is not the first time I have made an effort to motivate our group of Spoonpluggers. There is no doubt that Spoonplugging is not for everyone.

The most difficult time that I have is when we have a meeting and ask for fishing reports and not one person has been out fishing. Well, maybe a couple. I do understand that there may be other interests in life that can and does take up a lot of a person's time but getting out on the water is not that much of an effort.

The study material has everything that we need to become a pretty good fisherman and it is easily understood. All that is left is the desire to learn and a little time and effort on the water.

How many of you have taken some pictures of your success and sent them to Mrs. Perry with a thank you note and a story behind your catch? How many other groups of fishermen have fishing guidelines that will tell them what to do and how to go about their fishing?

How many other fishing groups share their fishing knowledge? How many have fishing outings that you can take your family and enjoy the fellowship and learn along the way? How many of you take advantage of this?

Spoonplugging is good!!!! It is good because Mr. Perry set the stage for us to follow even long after his passing. We all thought enough of him and had the respect to try and keep this good thing that we have going. My main goal is to let you know that this cannot continue without your participation. We are all getting old and when we are gone, will there be another Denny Coulardot to guide us at our meetings? Will there be another Ted Walter who will write our newsletter with such devotion and class as he does? Will there be a new education director who will yell at you and keep you in line!?

So..... next year, get out of your comfortable chair in front of the TV and go Spoonplugging. Jim Duplex says that you can't catch 'em if you ain't out there!!!!!!

*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:

...Another thing which might be mentioned is the problem encountered after you reach the 15 foot depth. The amount of line used, the type of line used, or the lure types used to reach depths below this 15 feet will separate the men from the boys. It becomes increasingly more difficult to have control beyond this depth. The “feel” starts to disappear, interpretation becomes harder—fishing in general just becomes more difficult and tiring. **To cap all this**, as depth increases, the fisherman has to become **more exact**. Fish react to depth in such a way that they are more difficult to catch and more exact presentation must be made in order to make them take. BUT, you must not pass up this deep water trolling just because it is difficult. Working this water or trying to place your lures correctly in this water, is the finest **teacher** around. It may take some time for you to become **exact**, but it will be well worth your effort.

If I appear to have put a lot of emphasis on trolling, you are right. In my opinion it takes far more skill to become a good troller than it does to become a good caster. For generations fishermen have been instructed in the proper procedure for casting, but never on trolling. There is a definite purpose for every trolling maneuver. And in the final analysis, **it is trolling that will tell you where, when, why, and how to cast. I can't say the same for casting.**

Trolling will be a constant reminder of DEPTH and SPEED control—**casting will not**. If you limit yourself to casting, or overdo it, pretty soon you will be putting faith in the size, color, and action of your lures, rather than in Depth and Speed control. You can put this in your pipe and smoke it, because it will happen.

Trolling will also: more quickly eliminate unproductive water, greatly facilitates and shortens the time of mapping and interpretation, allows a greater area to be covered to find fish, produces more ‘straggler’ (Remember these fish are important on those days which produce little or no movement), allows more varied and better speed and depth control. Competes with modern day traffic, makes fishing a family sport, no casting skill is needed, allows the use of lure weights and sizes which may not be usable with the available casting rig—plus many more.

While Spoonpluggers are taught the importance of trolling, this does not rule out casting by any means. **If you want to become a good fisherman you must be in a position to do BOTH in a sane and intelligent manner.**

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”