



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 9

#239

FOUNDED 1991

September 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 August 18, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members present.

Much of the meeting was spent discussing the "Buck Sez" Network Outing 2014 that took place the last week:

The 2014 "Buck Sez" Network Outing was as successful as ever with 82 people present for the Saturday night fish fry.

The weather was cool for August and as a result, the fishing was a little on the slow side...which meant we had to work a little harder to make catches. But catch we did. We had plenty of fish for Saturday night.

Northern pike are the customary fare for the outing and there was still a fair amount of northerns caught, but this year was unusual for the numbers of large-mouth bass caught. What makes this doubly unusual is that the weather conditions were far from optimal. Given that the largemouth bass is the most difficult game fish to catch on a consistent basis, we can rightfully attribute the success to the persistence and skill of the Spoonpluggers present at the outing! It has been noticeable that the abilities of the Spoonpluggers coming to the NIS outing over the years have been getting better and better.

Along with the bass were some very nice northerns and a few walleyes. Also Gino Testone and Jim Duplex caught and released some extra nice muskies; 47 and 49 inchers if I remember correctly (see photos)

Friday night featured Lance Richards' "Flaming Jenga" campfire that we believe topped last years.

This one could be seen from other planets! The cool weather made the fire especially welcome this year. Thanks go out to everyone who brought dishes in for each night's feast. We certainly didn't lack for food. And also thanks for the many donations contributed for the raffle following the Saturday night fish fry. The prizes seem to get better each year.

The one negative aspect of the outing was that Mike Zaborny was not feeling well. He went to the hospital when he got home and learned he was having a heart attack! He's had two stents put in and is doing very well now.

Lastly, thanks to President Denny Coulardot for his many years of coordinating and assisting in nearly all aspects of the past outings. Denny is turning over his many outing chores to other NIS members so that he can sit back and enjoy much deserved relaxation at future outings! Big shoes to fill, but we have some very competent members who will be up to the task.

And we voted to continue the "Buck Sez" Outing for 2015 at Forest Ridge Campground. Stay tuned; dates will be announced in the near future.

Long time NIS member Charlie Krause is in an assisted-living facility. His son, Mike (also an NIS member) will be bringing some of Charlie's Spoonplugging tackle for sale at the next meeting.

If you need additional Spoonplugs, rods or reels, (and who doesn't?) plan to attend the next meeting. Many of the reels are left-handed, so if you are a "lefty" you'll especially want to be there.

NEXT MEETING: September 15, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "

“BUCK SEZ” NETWORK OUTING 2014



Gino Testone & Jim Duplex with a pair of twin muskies



Shawn Nicodemus with a nice bass and Matt & Chanda Luley with some very nice north-erns



The fish cleaners and the fish cookers.



New Spoonplugger Ken Ringe, winner of this year's shadow box



Saturday night's crowd



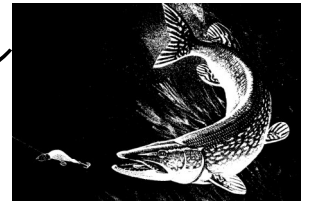
Lance Richard's "Flaming Jenga" Friday night campfire

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



After all these years, you would never think that you would forget one of the most talked about guidelines that there is. I recently took a student out for the weekend and we worked at what he needed to move forward. The first day was spent on interpretation of a structure situation, how to use his electronics, finding the contact point and the proper placement of markers. The second day we went to a lake that neither of us had seen. The goal was to locate the best features and find the fish in the short time that we had to fish for that day. We picked out the three or four best spots in the area. We then found the contact points and threw out the markers and made our passes. If fish were not caught on the troll, we would then anchor and fan cast with jump type lures. After a couple of hours we had one small catfish and no bass and no hits casting period. The catfish was snagged in the tail. The whole morning was spent trying to get into a school of fish so the shallows were not checked at all because of the lack of time that we had to catch a fish. Yes I skipped the trolling of the shallows to get into the fish that may have been deeper. That didn't happen. I then took the time before we started checking out the shallows explaining to the student that in these conditions (day one), there may not be much of a movement and that straggler fishing can be very important if you want to put some fish in the boat. It did not take long before the first fish was in the boat. A bass and then another and then another. It was obvious and in very short order that this was the thing to do on this particular day. All of the spots that we checked earlier was only a cast or two away from where the catchable fish were caught the rest of the day. You would think that there would still be some stragglers on the key spots but not on this day. This was not only a valuable lesson for the student but for me too. You never stop learning and if I would have started out where I should have, we may not have wasted any time getting into the fish.

Good Spoonplugging
John Bales



Johnny Bales with a big largemouth caught on an area lake. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree!

“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:

What ‘triggers’ the activity and movements of the fish?”

There is no question that it is a weather condition. But, we doubt if anyone knows the **exact** part that starts and stops the movements. It could be a combination of many things. We have our ideas but we have no definite FACTS. We feel LIGHT plays a major role, and Buck can quite often predict when a movement is about to begin, or when one is in progress, by his observations of the light present. He uses his LIGHT observations as his guide to the activity and movements of the fish—for he says: “If my light observations give me the answers, that’s good enough for me.”

One thing we should all agree on is the movements of the fish are not “triggered” or controlled by their hunger. We would have a hard time figuring out why all the fish in the lake become hungry at the same time. And, it would not explain the activity and movement without feeding. A game fish can be made to “strike”—this is his nature. We never expect to catch our fish feeding, but we’re happy when this occurs.

You may want to know if the moon has any effect on the fish? We have not been able to find any relationship between movements and the phase of the moon. If there were any, we are quite sure local weather and water conditions would completely wreck it.

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“Are fish of all sizes and age groups bunched up together down in the deep water?”

The study material said the smaller fish were not compatible with the larger fish. We classify the smaller fish into a group, called “yearlings.” These are normally from one to three years old. Some may be older, but where growth is good, you can view the smaller fish group as being of this age. A better way probably to view the smaller fish would be to say, until they reach about 2-2 1/2 pounds, they are not compatible with the larger fish. When the larger fish get on the move, the yearlings scoot to the safety of the shallows.

You will find, in some instances, where a school of bigger fish are all about the same size. At other times, they will come in several different sizes. The age, fertility, and reproduction of a body of water would have a bearing on the sizes in any particular school.

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“Are there fishing situations where the fish, when they move towards shallower water, do not move toward or along structure such as bars, but will move shallower by going ‘vertically’ toward the surface?”

This Spoonplugging (structure fishing) study is primarily concerned with the larger species of game fish (bass, wall-eye, northern pike, muskies, stripers, etc.). However, there are certain water situations and certain species of fish where part of a movement may be, at times, directly toward the surface. The fish may be “drawn” toward the surface due to some attraction or “noise.” However, all the movements would be related to structure or some bottom feature; AND, the upward movement (toward the surface) will occur only AFTER the fish become active and moving. In a later study we will discuss fishing situations where a part of a migration may be vertical. But to CONSISTENTLY put fish on our stringer, “structure” (features of the bottom the fish use) is still our guide to where most of the CATCHABLE fish may be found.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”