



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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#243

FOUNDED 1991

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The last meeting was held December 15, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library with 12 members present.

Spoonplugger Historian Dan King brought in another display of his Spoonplugging collection consisting of one of the original Spoonplugging rods with a Buck's Baits Trolling Reel model #101 with the original box. This rod was more limber than the trolling rods most are using today since the rod was produced for the Spoonplugs offered when it was originally sold. At that time, Buck only sold Spoonplugs up to the size of 100's as the 700, 800 and 900 series was still on the drawing board. Once those lures were introduced he realized the trolling rods would need to be stiffer.

Dan also brought in a couple of top water "weedless" Spoonplugs as well as an additional reel that Buck recommended in a letter (Dan had the letter also!) of a Langley "Whitecap" model 410.

Denny Coulardot brought in one of Buck's saltwater lures for those who had never seen one. The bait was given to him by John Zaborny who pulled it up off a snag!

Not many fishing reports were forthcoming. Many of the lakes either are frozen over partially frozen over with a handful of the larger, deeper lakes still remaining open.

John Bales has been mopping up on the big white bass on Lake Tippecanoe and several of the members have been there as well. Some of the white bass

measured up to 20 inches! Most of the white bass as well as crappies and perch were being caught in very deep water adjacent to structure. Most of the fish were caught in a range from 50 to 65 feet deep. As a result of the depth, few fish could be released as the air bladders were hyper-inflated.

Denny gave a brief instruction of fishing slots or holes in river conditions where there is current. He suggested starting at the upstream edge of the slot or hole and drifting downstream using a vertical jigging method using a jump-type lure. The weight of the lure would need to be matched with the strength of the current in order to maintain contact with the bottom in as vertical a manner as possible. When to coming to the end of the slot or hole you can motor back to the head of it, move the boat over a boat-length or so and drift back through as many times as it takes to cover the entire slot.

The **Illinois Spoonplugger Winter Seminar** is coming up on March 21, 2015 in Elk Grove Village (see next page for details). The **Winter Seminar** is always an informative, interesting and educational event that is suitable for the veteran as well as the novice Spoonplugger. There will be several members attending so if you'd like to attend, plan on being at one of the next two meetings to arrange transportation options.

As a reminder...dues of a book of stamps is due for 2015. Thanks.

NEXT MEETING: January 19, 2015 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "

NETWORK OUTINGS FOR 2015

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar

Elk Grove Village, IL

March 21, 2015

Contact: Brett Christianson

312-952-2196

bchristenson@marquetteassociates.com

Leoni Outing

Jackson, MI

June 22-28, 2015

Contact: John Zaborny

517-414-3596

jzaborny@sbcglobal.net

Muskegon Lake, MI

Fisherman's Landing

July 8-12, 2015

Lunker Hunters

Contact: Chase Klinesteker

616-949-8665

Ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Outing

Tippecanoe, Webster, Wawasee Lakes

Forest Ridge Campground

(260-327-3551)

August 12-15, 2015

Contact: John Bales

260-854-3921

johnspoon@embarqmail.com

Buck Perry Memorial Outing

Taylorsville, NC

October 10, 2015

Contact: Jeri Perry

828-632-8058

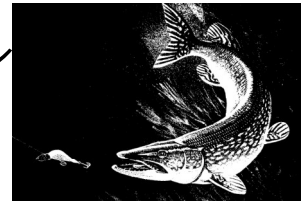
buckperry90@charter.net

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Here is a test for you:

There is a structure situation right here in front of you. It is an area of the bottom that is different from the surrounding area. It is a summer time spot and we are away from the shoreline quite a distance. This is the area for this time of the year where you have a chance to get into a large group of bass. Your job is to find out the size and shape of this feature. I want to know how many major breaklines exist on this structure and I want you to draw the shape of the feature at each major breakline on the structure. You will have to locate the depth of the breakline first and then follow it around the structure and then draw out each breakline. If there is a weedline, I want to know how deep it runs and the shape of the outside weedline also. If it has an inside weedline, I want to know how it runs and I want you to draw the shape of it also. I want the contact point found and marked with a red marker. Any other fingers that exist, I would like a yellow marker thrown on the tips of the fingers.

Once you map this structure, throw markers and have it drawn, you may now do some trolling of lures now that you know how and where to make your passes. I want the passes started as shallow as you can and end up to at least 35 feet on this structure. There are other breaks that exist on this feature and if you make your passes correctly, you will find them and you need to record these breaks on your hand drawn map.

Everything that was asked of you in this test are all part of Mr. Perry's guidelines for us to use in our learning process. Every one of these tasks you should have had no problem doing. The whole mapping process should not have taken more than 30 minutes and this would include the drawing of the map.

What have we learned by mapping this structure? We know the overall size and shape of the feature. We know exactly how each breakline runs around the structure. We have located the contact point and know exactly where the fish will make contact with the bar. We have set up our trolling passes with the markers and have included shoreline sightings for future trips. We have made all of the trolling passes necessary in order to eliminate the unproductive water and arrive at the fish in the shortest amount of time. We know all of the most important details of this structure and we did it all in just a few short hours. There will never be a time that we fish this spot without knowing exactly where we are, what exists on the bottom of the lake and what you and I need to do to catch the fish. It is a good feeling to know where you are on the water and knowing what we need to do to catch a fish. All that is left is to wait for the fish to do their thing.

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:

“I have been mapping my lake for four or five years. But there are many days when I can only pick up one or two fish trolling the deeper structures. I know where and how to make the trolling passes so as to hit the best spots in deeper water, but I still can’t find more than a couple fish. Some days I can’t find any. What is wrong and what should I do?”

It appears you know your lake (depths, structure, breaks, breaklines), and the spots in deep water where a “lone” fish (straggler) can be caught. So you should know bad weather can have the fish deep and inactive. The “stragglers” should indicate this. And, on those days when nothing is found (shallow or deep), you should know you are probably not fishing deep enough or not presenting lures well enough.

We have stressed the importance of taking a casting position when a fish is caught trolling. We have stressed the point of checking speeds when the fish are deep and dormant, under a bad weather condition.

I would seem to me you don’t have much of a problem. Under these conditions, you should stop the trolling and go to the cast, especially when you hit a straggler. You should “fan” cast the area where the fish was caught, and **then go deeper**. As the depth increases, the speed control gets slower, so you have to use lure styles to work the deeper water (on the bottom) slower.

I find good fishermen, good mappers, good interpreters, and especially **good trollers** have a tendency to **not** take up a casting position when fish are not moving well (bad weather condition). They will hit a straggler on a deep contact point, and if several passes do not produce additional fish, off they go to another structure, break, or breakline.

I can’t find too much fault with this as I find myself doing the same thing. I think the reason for this is two-fold. First, I know the fish are deep and dormant, and I can only expect straggler movement to structure, but if I go long enough and hit enough places, I will make a catch (of stragglers). Second, I keep hoping a mass of fish will move within reach at some place during the day.

Now be sure you understand the situation. All good Spoonpluggers go immediately to the cast when it is indicated the fish are moving. But, when a bad weather condition comes up, and only straggler movement is expected (or proved), it is then he backs off from taking a the casting position.

I feel the main reason a good troller, mapper, interpreter is reluctant to take the casting route during a bad deep-water situation is due to his **not having the patience** to work the deeper water with slow jump-type lures. He might try it for a couple of casts, but then he’s off and running again. He probably says to himself, “If I gotta catch them “still” fishing, **I’d rather find out more about the lake.**”

Years ago, I’d go to wire line on the troll, and I’d spend hours working extra deep water with slow jump-type lures **in order to catch fish**. But in later years, and especially now, the deep slow water casting just to catch fish doesn’t appeal to me very much. Probably if I entered a tournament, and the weather and water was marginal, I’d spend most all my time using deep, clear, cold-front casting procedures again.

However, if you want to catch fish under the conditions as described, you must stop trolling when a deep straggler is hit (or when you completely fail) and go to the cast for the deep or dormant fish. All this depends, however, on if you know where and how to fish deep water.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”