



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held at the Kendallville Public Library July 20, 2015 with 15 members and guests present.

Dan King, our club's Spoonplug historian and most probably the world's leading authority on Spoonplug collectibles, brought in another of his Spoonplugging oddities: A complete set of "Henry Specials". Not sure who "Henry" was, but the Spoonplugs were obviously special made by Mr. Perry. They were white/black with the "stabilizing tabs" (flutes at the tail of the lure) painted green. "Henry Special" was printed on the end of the original box instead of the usual Spoonplug number. Dan also had a 3 ring Spoonplug along with the original RED box that was used on the commemorative "Spoonplug" Kennedy Half Dollar. (You can find the coin on eBay).

Fishing reports were generally good, however record high water exists on many area lakes with a few lakes closed to boat traffic until water levels recede somewhat.

The record rain-producing storms have made for some unstable weather conditions, but northern and panfish activity have offset the conditions to some extent.

Denny reported that speeds have been slower recently. Typically speeds are pretty fast this time of year, but most of his success has been with the slower speeds.

With the heat building in the last few weeks, thermoclines will begin to appear in short order...if they haven't already. You should be able to detect these on depth meters by turning up the gain or sensitivity a bit. These thermocline form an important "breakline" when they appear and should not be ig-

nored.

This blanket of warmer, lighter, oxygen rich layer of water that rests over the colder, heavier water below typically hosts most all of the zoo/phyto plankton. They are fed upon by minnows who in turn become dinner for larger fish. The zooplankton move up the water column to feed on the phytoplankton and then move back down to avoid predators. The thermocline restricts their downward movement and ends up concentrating everything; plankton, minnows, predatory fish, all in the boundary between the 2 water masses. And the boundary will exist until fall turnover. So be aware that this breakline exists in many lakes and be prepared to see how fish react to it.

John Bales reported on a recent trip to Ohio and fishing for striped bass. He was pretty impressed with the striper's power and I think he's ready for another trip!

The upcoming "**Buck Sez**" **Outing** schedule took up most of the meeting:

Wednesday (August 12th) Chili supper

Thursday (August 13th) Pulled Pork

Friday (August 14th) Hot dogs & sloppy joes

Saturday (August 15th) Fish Fry followed by the drawing/giveaway. (donation appreciated!)

See Flyer on next page

NEXT MEETING: August 17, 2015 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "

NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGERS

ALL SPOONPLUGGERS INVITED

ANNUAL "BUCK SEZ" OUTING

AUGUST 12, 13, 14, & 15th, 2015

**BASE CAMP WILL BE LOCATED AT:
FOREST RIDGE CAMP GROUND**

**\$20.00/NIGHT, TENT/RV (260) 327-3551 SWIMMING POOL
WATER & ELEC. (MENTION NO. IND. SPOONPLUGGERS)**

-or-

**LEE'S INN SUPER 8 MOTEL
(260)244-5300**

Or

**QUALITY INN
(260)248-4551**

OR

**BUDGET INN
(260)248-4644**

**MOTELS ARE LOCATED JUST OFF US30 IN COLUMBIA CITY ABOUT 5 MILES FROM THE
CAMPGROUND AND WITHIN 15 MILES OF MOST LAKES**

***AREA LAKES INCLUDE: WEBSTER,
TIPPECANOE, WAWASEE, BARBEE CHAIN, AND MORE.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

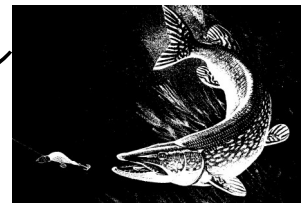
**DENNY COULARDOT
260) 691-3118**

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



I am going to tell a fish story like you read in most fishing magazines but with a little truth involved at the end. For as long as I have lived on Atwood Lake, the bluegills have chosen an area between my pier and my neighbor's pier as their spawning ground. That area has not changed in 27 years. The locals know about it. The Amish know about it and that spot and those fish take a beating and keep on ticking every single year. When my dad passed away, he left me a fly rod. Every year when the bluegill spawn, I take the fly rod out and have some fun. I try to get at least one meal a year from them and throw the rest back. Watching the bluegill has taught me a lot over the years. The bluegill spawn so shallow that you can watch the weather conditions and try and guess how many will be on the beds when I get home from work. You would think that with the understanding of Mr. Perry's guidelines that it would be somewhat easy to predict if there are less or more or if they might be completely gone for a while. They are not as predictable as you might think. Yes it may be like you think it will be for a while. Once they come, and they are many, you start watching the weather. The more stable the weather, the more that come and the more they get into the ritual of spinning around and doing their thing and making baby fish. And then a front comes along with rain and lightning and you just know that when you walk out on the pier that you will see nothing. They will be gone..... right? Not really. There are twice as many as there were yesterday. Now you are left scratching your head and wondering why this is happening. This happens now and then that your guess is completely wrong but for most of the time, they are predictable. I let the grandkids use the live bait but I stick to the fly rod because I enjoy the mechanics of it. On some days the bluegill will come off the bed and take the fly as soon as it hits the water. On other days they will just look at it and maybe you will get one or two and they just will not have anything to do with the fly. It's just like any other fish. They are active sometimes and sometimes they are not. I only have a handful of flies. I do not have a fly box full of handy dandy named dry and wet fancy named stuff. So when the fish are jumping on my fly, everything is good and it is all fun and giggles. When they are not biting and just watch my offering go by with no interest, I just go back in the house because I'm not interested in working that hard to catch them after a long day at work. One night last week, I was in the mood to catch them. After a couple of quick bites, they decided to ignore my offering. I wanted to change my offering so I came back to the porch where there sat some fake little white worms in a jar. Deb bought them for the grandkids to keep from having to buy real worms every time they come up to fish. I went out and got it. It's *Gulp Alive*..... It is advertised to out fish live bait and outlive live bait. It also says that it smells like live bait but it smells like something I don't want to smell again. Anyways, after the bluegill snubbed me pretty bad, I thought I would take a couple of chunks of this stinky plastic bait and stick it on my fly. As soon as it hit the water, I had a fish. I caught several in a row and it was like magic. I caught a few more and my worm fell off so I thought I would just try it without it. Nothing..... not a fish would eat it. I went back to the porch and got me another worm and they started eating it right away. I continued catching so many fish, I could have filled a bucket with bluegill. Until my worm fell off and then it was not a hit again. I went back and got me another one and it was on again and I had caught enough and was satisfied and had enough.

I told one of the guys at work about it and he wanted to know where he could get some of these worms. I tried to tell him it wasn't the worm that made the fish eat the bait. It was that the fish would not eat the fly when it fell too fast and that the piece of worm slowed the fall of the fly to the speed that the fish wanted for that particular time. You and I know that we must think in terms of depth and speed or we will never solve a fishing situation. We should all be thankful that Mr. Perry took the time to write down his findings and share them with us.

Good Spoonplugging

John Bales

“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



BUCK SEZ:

The more I learn, the more I see there is to learn.” E. L. “Buck” Perry

Each time I get to a new section, such as this weather and water study, and after reading your opening remarks, I keep asking myself: Why does he break all this material down into ‘sections?’ Why not state a fact, and then point out what we must do to catch the fish? Why go through all this study on the different subject matter?”

My reaction to this is practically the same as yours. For too many years, I have preached the basic facts by showing, speaking, and written word. In fact, all the material found in this big study was in the first small sheet printed years and years ago. The reason for this detailed expanded version of Basics is due to the fact the fisherman did not hear, or did not understand. This is by no means a reflection on the intelligence of the fisherman. It was due to what he had heard, said, and done, and what others were saying or doing. His head was filled with doubts and unanswered questions. The purpose of this study is to see if doubts and questions can be so eliminated as **to make more fishermen more aware of fishing facts.**

When all is said and done, all that was ever needed was the Spoonplugger’s Basic Guideline. We have been stressing this point all through this study. That’s all I used, and it was all some of the better fishermen in the country used. If you grasp what was said in the Basic Guideline, you can see it’s all there.

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