



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held June 8, 2015 at the Kendallville Public Library with 14 members present. Dan King brought in a couple of nice frames of vintage Spoonplugs from his collection, many that we didn't know existed. There were 1/8 oz. to 2 oz. SJ Series, weedless SJ's, and spinning rod SJ's. We had seen some of the larger ones, but we hadn't known about some of the smaller sizes.

John Bales brought in a bag of Spoonplugs for Dan to look over and Dan found one with S-P-O-O-N-P-L-U-G stamped into one of the wings of the lure. This stamp appeared on some of the earlier multi-ring Spoonplugs and are quite difficult to see as they are very lightly stamped into the metal.

Fishing reports were pretty good, although the weather has been anything but stable. We should be entering a more stable summer weather pattern soon (at least according to the law averages!!) Northern pike are turning on quite well and bass fishing has begun to pick up from the doldrums following the spawn.

John Bales fished recently with writer Spence Petros along with Brett Christianson. As most Spoonpluggers are aware, Spence was editor of *Fishing Facts* magazine for many years and was instrumental in featuring many articles written by Mr. Perry. (See photo on following page)

John, Brett and Spence fished Lake Geneva (Wisconsin) for bass. They caught 85 which Spence said broke his old record of 80 bass in one day! Our club is back to its regular schedule of the 3rd Monday of each month beginning **July 20th** and will continue to be the third Monday though the end of the year.

Note that our meeting on the 20th will be the last meeting prior to our annual "Buck Sez" outing.

Please try to attend as we will need volunteers for set-up, planning and preparation for evening meals and the clean-up following the event.

Also, if you have anything to donate to the annual raffle on Saturday night, please bring it to the meeting OR to the outing. Thanks.

ANNUAL "BUCK SEZ" OUT- ING

AUGUST 12, 13, 14, & 15, 2015
FOREST RIDGE CAMP GROUND

Tent-RV's
(260) 327-3551

MOTELS ARE LOCATED ON US30 IN COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA 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
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NEXT MEETING: July 20, 2015 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



John Bales & Spence Petros



Norene and McKenzie Luley with a nice 37 inch muskie

Dave Gould with big 36 in. northern

Terry Keenan with nice northern

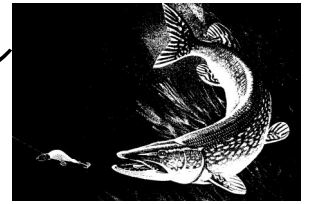


“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Being around other Spoonpluggers has its advantage. Getting a chance to spend some time around Frank Hamill taught me a lot over the years. One of the things that Frank said is you cannot make a catch till the fish cooperate. What does this really mean? They must get active for you and I to make a catch. This is the reason that Mr. Perry said to start out as shallow as you can and end up as deep as you can so that we can eliminate the unproductive water and arrive at the fish. The whole time that we are going through the mechanics, we are waiting for the fish to become active. We can make perfect trolling passes. We can anchor the boat and cast every lure known to man and do a perfect job of it. If the fish do not become active and move, we cannot make a catch. This is also the reason that we repeat the process over and over during a fishing day. We are waiting for the fish to move or become active. While checking out our depths and speeds during a fishing day, this also gives us a chance to be in the right place, at the right time and fishing in the right manner. Any time we try to guess where the fish might be or predict what might be the best lure or the right speed, we have a really good chance of being wrong. This is why the basic procedures of trolling and casting will have the best chance of putting the fish in the boat for most of the fishing season. I have always tried to learn all of the fishing methods and spend enough time learning them that I have an idea of when to apply them. A lot of times you can be right but when your guess is not working, it is best to go back to the basics of trolling and by doing so, you will know when to go to the cast and what it will take to put the most fish in the boat.

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:

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.

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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 ”