



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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#248

FOUNDED 1991

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The last meeting was held May 11, 2015 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members present. We welcomed new member Joe Bergman of Howe, Indiana. Joe has completed reading the Green Book and has fished several times with Jeff Parham and so is well on his way to becoming a proficient Spoonplugger. Welcome Joe.

Denny has finally broken the curse and caught one of the first muskies recently. (See photos on next page) He is also catching lots of crappie and bluegills using a spinner rig.

Denny reported that due to the recent warm up, both crappies and bass are beginning their spawn. He says this spawning always occurs when the dogwood trees in the area come into bloom. Another "hand rule" for our area is that when the cotton from the cottonwood trees are about finished flying, the northern pike are turning on for the season.

I was also noted that lakes have been extremely clear so far this year. It was also mentioned that several area lakes were either being sprayed for weed control or were in the on-deck circle...just in time for the spawning of many species!! But we are assured by the DNR that it will have no effect on the fish or their spawning activities. *wink* *wink*

John Bales and Jeff Parham gave us an informative instructional on catching smallmouth on Lake St Clair. They made a recent trip there and as you can see from the photos, it was a successful trip. Of the two days, they caught 38 on the first day and 40 the next. Jeff said that only about 10 of the total weighed in the 3 pound range while the rest were in the 4-5 pound category. They fished several areas with the

Delphine Channel being the most productive. The Delphine Channel is a 3,000 foot long channel dredged in 1921 by the Dodge Brothers of Detroit to accommodate their 258 foot *Delphine* yacht. The water in Lake St Clair are very shallow, averaging only 5-7 feet and since the yacht drew 16 ft, the channel was dug from the main shipping channel to the Dodge Mansion on the western shore so that it could be moored close by.

The rocks at the edges of the channel seem to be the key to schools of smallmouth. St Clair also has good populations of walleye and muskie as well as smallies.

John mentioned that St Clair is loaded with zebra mussels so a long wire leader is essential when lines come in contact with anything in the lake!

John Zaborny has decided his health has improved enough to hold his annual outing.

Leoni Outing Jackson, Michigan June 22-28, 2015

**5441 E. Michigan Ave, Jackson, Michigan, 49201.
517-414-3596**

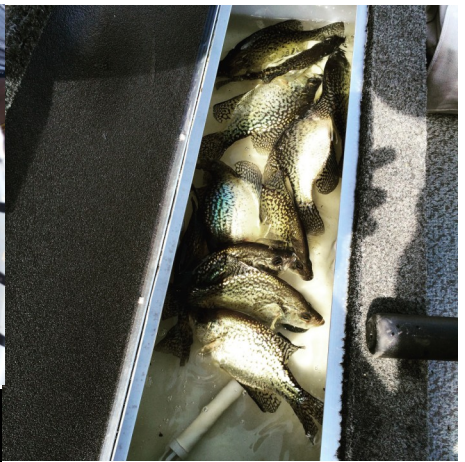
jszaborny@yahoo.com.

Breakfast each morning, supper each night, camping, fish cleaning station all at John's place...and all FREE.

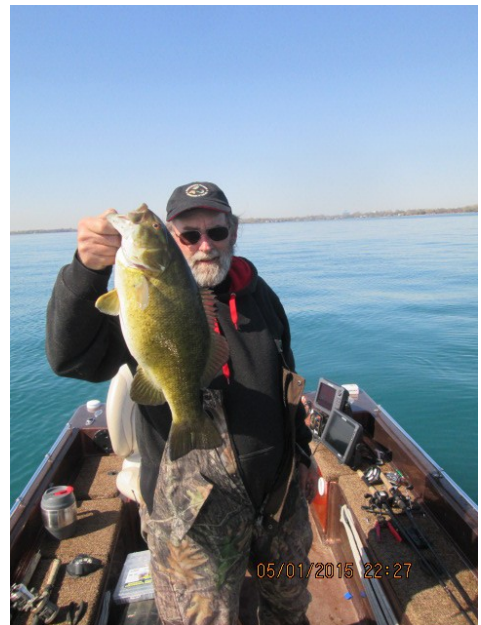
Over 50 local lakes and within an hour or so from Detroit River/Lake Erie complex or Lake St Clair.

**NEXT MEETING: June 8, 2015 at the
Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Denny Coulardot with one of the first muskies of the season...as well as a nice mess of crappie and bluegills



John Bales (above) and Jeff Parham (below) show off a few of the smallies on a recent trip to Lake St Clair.



“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



NIS member David Erdly recently moved to Tennessee (but works in Louisiana). It appears he has been having some success on some of the Tennessee waters!

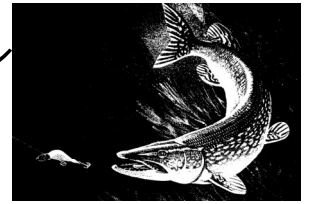


“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



The bottom line in learning about Spoonplugging all falls on the back of the one who wants to learn about it. The basics of what we need to learn and do has been written in the Green Book and the home study series. I said it is the basics of what we need to know to have success, if we will study, believe, and then put that knowledge to work on the water.

The most important part of Spoonplugging which will set you up for being as good as you want to be is to become a good troller. Trolling is our teacher. As we practice doing it, we learn about structure, fish movements, weather and water and we begin to see and understand that the knowledge that Mr. Perry shared are true fishing facts. Confidence brews and the burning desire to learn more may be in you. I said **may** because if you do not become a good troller, you will not get that desire to get better and learn more.

There are a lot of fishing methods out there and a lot of good lures besides a Spoonplug that we can use to control our depths and speeds. If you do decide to put in the work and become a good troller, your knowledge that will be learned can be used to master any fishing tool or method that you want to learn. A so-called fishing method or tool (lures) can now be learned and easily understood as to the how, what, when, where, and why in the total aspect of fishing.

Mr. Perry said that at times, a fish can be caught on most anything, by most anyone and most any time. The key is to be able to catch a fish consistently. Why would we not want to learn it all? It's all on your back.

Good Spoonplugging
John Bales

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”