



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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#247

FOUNDED 1991

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The last meeting was held April 13, 2015 at the Kendallville Public Library with 15 members present. Dan King, our club's Spoonplugging Historian, brought in a Spoonplug display of 200 series 3-ringers, a display of 250's and a complete sales display card of vintage 500 Spoonplugs. What was unique about the 500's were the size of the hooks, which were much larger than the hooks on the present day 500's

Denny reported that John Zaborny has completed his radiation treatments following a diagnosis of cancerous tumors in his stomach however he is still not feeling up to par and is unsure if the Leoni Outing scheduled for June 22-28, 2015 will take place or not. He will make a final determination depending on his condition on May 20th. I will keep everyone posted.

Mike Whirrett took orders for Spoonplugs and equipment and should have the loot at the next meeting.

Denny reported that the lakes are still pretty clear and water temperatures have been in the 40's and are just now breaking the 50 degree mark. Colder than normal temperatures have lasted well into the spring and may retard spawning activity to some extent. Although with the current rise in (air) temperatures, perhaps the deficient in water temperatures will rebound faster than expected.

Denny also reported that he is not catching any muskie so far. He believes they may have spawned before the ice went off area lakes putting the muskies in a postspawn sluggish mood. He is usually catching at least a few muskies following ice out.

John Bales spoke at length on spring strategies, emphasizing

fishing the most productive bodies of water for this time of year. Those lakes with good water color are a natural choice. Many lakes with good water color have mucky bottoms and as such, precautions should be made to make sure we are not inadvertently trolling BELOW the goo on the bottom. Often, a layer of fine, suspended particles exists just above the bottom and is not recognized by a depth meter. If we are trolling in this layer, our lures may seem to be running just fine, however, we will catch no fish by doing so.

As John indicates in his following article, the fish may be in the shallows more often at this time of year and as we've read in the Green Book, when the fish are in the shallows, they tend to scatter. Also, they can be at any depth in the shallows. For example, active fish may be at the 5 foot depth in 10 feet of water. If you are fishing close to the bottom as we may typically do in deeper water, we may miss the fish so checking depth in the shallows can make a big difference in your springtime/shallow water fishing success.

John also mentioned that many of the lakes with good water color are often rather small in size. About a dozen small area lakes were mentioned. These lakes may get boring when on the troll, but they offer some advantages as well. Many have a lower speed limit that prohibits water skiing and jet skies. They are also typically overlooked for weed control, making them much more predictable.

**NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2015 at the  
Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

**" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "**

**(Dan King put together the following for club members and Spoonplug collectors:)**

*This is a brief history from Jeri Perry's early history as presently known from her notes September 2007:*

**Buck Perry: July 10 1915 –August 10, 2005**

**1946 Buck's Baits founded**

**1947 April 15, 1947—Patent application date**

**1951 Patent issued (January 16, 1951 Patent #2,538,703)**

**1946 First Spoonplug: 100 Series (3 ring)**

**1947 200 Series (3 ring)**

**1948 250 Series (2 ring)**

**1949 Spinplug (for spinning equipment)**

**1950 400 series (2 ring)**

**1950-1954 300M—Later called 500 Series (1 ring)**

**1957-1958 Big 700 (1 ring)**

**1956-1962 900 Series (slow lure) and 800 Series (fast lure) (1 ring)**

**1962 Evinrude 5 Pack (multi ring) - Free with purchase of a new Evinrude boat motor**

**1963-1964 Buck made the SJ topwater-weedless, and the Rooster.**

**I am not sure when, but between 1958 and 1964 the Big 700 and 900 Series were discontinued, and the 900 die was cut down to the present day 700 Series**

**1971 Fire destroyed Buck's Baits and Buck discontinued all lures except the 7 Spoonplug Series we have today.**

**1964 No-Bo Trolling Line**

**P.O. Box 248 was used from start until 1955**

**P.O Box 644 was used from 1956 to 1962**

**My best guess as to when Buck changed to one ring on all Spoonplugs would be 1963 to 1965 when he went from orange to light blue boxes.**

**If anyone has additions or correction, let me or Jeri know.**

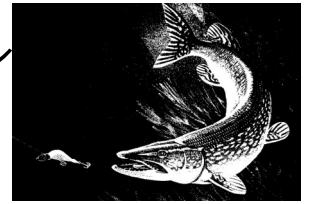
**January 20, 2015 Dan King**

**“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”**



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Mr. Perry states that when we are trolling the shallows, we must strain the water. This is because the fish that we are looking for may be up off of the bottom or if active enough, may take a lure off of the surface. Personally, I don't even have a top water lure and don't plan to ever have one in the future. But ..... if you want to check it out correctly, the water should be strained. I learned this the hard way and it was a very good lesson. I was fishing with David Barker from Tennessee and we had just left the boat ramp. This was my first time fishing the Bass Islands so I started asking David a few questions. Such as how deep do you normally catch your fish this time of year and what presentation of lures do you end up using for this time of year? He told me that they normally catch their fish around eight to ten feet and suspending jerk baits seem to work best. David started with a jerk bait and I put on a 250 and we started out on the troll. We didn't go 100 feet and David had a fish on. Of course, I am thinking this is a fluke. The lures went back in the water and one minute later he got another and another and another. I tried a shad rap, thinking that this might do it but I am still down on the bottom and David's lure is still several feet off of the bottom. This has never happened to me before so my thinking cap is on but the electricity is not quite hooked up. The whole weekend found the fish being caught up off of the bottom. When we went to the cast, I picked up a jig and worked it on the bottom 50 times and did so knowing I was going to catch a fish every cast. I never did all weekend. We had a ball and caught a bunch of nice smallmouth. I had no choice but to say yes when David offered me one of his jerk baits. I came home and called two better fishermen than me and asked them what the heck was going on. Terry O'malley just laughed at me and told me that the fish were just not on the bottom and I was fishing under the fish. I had always concentrated my efforts on or near the bottom when running lures and this was a first. I went back to the green book and the answer is plainly stated. I had read what was said but did not absorb a thing into my brain. The greatest learning experiences we can ever have are those that make us think. It could be that the best lessons are when we fail and when we review in our minds what we did or what we didn't do.

*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:**

*When we were studying the Season Movements of the fish, a couple things kept bugging me. I didn't comment at the time, but in this study of the many lake types, and fishing structure from a seasonal point of view, those questions kept coming back.*

*You said during certain periods of the hotter weather (summer) the fish may be moving at night instead of the daytime due to weather and water conditions. You said to check it out at “daybreak.” May questions are: (1) Maybe the fish are moving in the daytime, but due to other reasons, no fish are caught? (2) Is there any way I can determine when the right movement will occur?”*

Let me answer both questions in sort of a roundabout way. I assume we are talking about the bass as some species move at night.

Spoonplugging is: being in the right place (seasonal structure), at the right time (a.m. or p.m.), fishing in the right manner (checking depths and moving lures correctly). This results in consistent successful fishing. However, if **any** of these three things are wrong, you do not catch fish. Period.

Let's say **weather and water conditions are good**. You fish **correctly all day**, on the **best seasonal structure**, and you test **the deepest water available** (or to 30-35 feet at least), but you **still catch no fish**. What is wrong? The answer is, **you are fishing at the wrong time**. If you check it out for a couple of days (to be sure you are fishing correctly) and you still get no action, it means **the fish are moving at night**.

You asked if there was any way to determine when it was necessary to check if the fish were moving at night? The above is an answer to your question, but probably you had something else in mind. Probably you meant at what period of time in the summer do the night movements occur?

This would depend upon the weather and water conditions, and “just where” you lived. It could vary from place to place. But you can sort of figure when it will occur.

We have stated, the movement of bigger fish can be slow and short right after spawning. This period of reduced activity can last from 4 to 6 weeks on the average, depending upon location, weather and water conditions. During this slow movement period, many yearlings (small fish) and some nice fish, can still be caught with “proper” fishing.

**After this slow period** (July-August), there may come a period when ALL action stops in the daytime—regardless how well you fish. **The key to the nighttime movement is when all “stinker” (small fish) action stops in the daytime.**

If you check it after dark, and no small fish move during the first few hours, this will indicate the movement is occurring later. The reason I say to check it at daybreak is because we should still have some fish around if it occurs at midnight (or later). This daybreak check will tell us the fish are moving at night regardless when the movement occurs. Experience should show you the “daybreak” movement will be the best.

A word of caution is in order concerning the “daybreak” movement. The fish can be large and grouped close together. The movement will be short (but sweet, if you observe a few things).

During this movement, the troller or the shoreline caster may hit a few small fish for a short period of time. But the movement of larger fish into position is not shallow nor is it for long, and this is not the proper way to do it.

You should position your boat (anchored) so the casts can be made (“right on the money”) to the “contact point,” or the bottom “break” the fish are using. We have to keep the fish coming, for we have only 15-20 minutes (on the average) to make the catch. The **longest** period of time you can **expect**, is to when the first direct rays of the sun strike the water.

You may ask, “how long does this period of night movements last”?

It will vary. It will last until a major weather **change** occurs. It could be a week or several weeks before the **major** movements occur again in the daytime. But **once it occurs, you should expect no more major, long-lasting nighttime movements.**

In hot weather and certain **deep, “clear water” lakes** the night movement can be good for the fishermen, as the fish will move **shallower** than they would (or do) on a daytime movement. However, during the hotter weather, and the clear water conditions, it does not mean the fish are moving every night. They could be moving during the daytime, but you were not fishing correctly at the right place and time, and you just assumed they were moving at night.

If you “check it out” at night, or at daybreak, and catch no fish, then you better take a look at your interpretation and presentation of lures in deep water.

**“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”**