



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 11

#253

FOUNDED 1991

November 2015

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The last meeting was held at the Kendallville Public Library October 19, 2015 with 14 members and guests present.

Dan King brought in a few other examples of his collection. This time some of the very first Spoonplugs produced. They can be identified by having both S-P-O-O-N-P-L-U-G stamped into the wing on one side as well as the absence of airbrushing around the eyes.

John Bales brought in a "Patriotic JB1" prototype. (See photo on next page)

Water temperatures are now in the mid 50's and falling but fall turnover is not yet complete. As a result, fishing has been tough. John & Denny reminded everyone that this is typical...happens each fall. Conditions are changing with cooler temps causing the colder upper layers of water to begin sinking and causing short movements...if they exist at all! As John reminded everyone, this time of year it is routine to have 5 bad days on the water, then one good one. John also stated that "Buck Sez" of this time of year: be prepared to put in long days, slower presentations, fish for stragglers, follow the guidelines by starting out shallow and go down from there for as deep as you can go. Once waters become stable, (hand rule for the Midwest: when the last of the leaves fall off the trees) THEN, some of the best fishing of the season can take place. Fish may be deeper, but with stable conditions, activity periods can become longer and more predicable because of this stability.

Because of the lower water temperatures, trolling speeds are most often slow; 2.5 to 3 mph seems to work best.

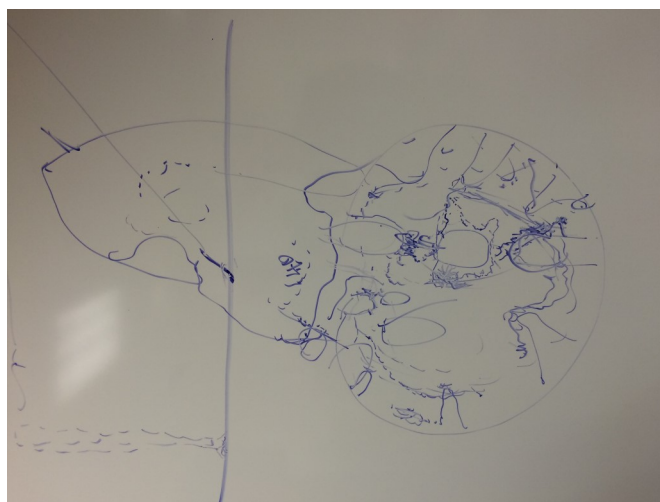
John reported that he and Jeff Parham had recently

made a trip to the Lake Erie/Detroit River convergence. This time of year has produced some extremely good catches of smallmouth in past years. Last year and this year have been exceptions.

In their 2 days, they only caught about a dozen smallies. Jeff caught a couple of nice ones though: a 5.3 and 6.3 pounders. (See photos on next page).

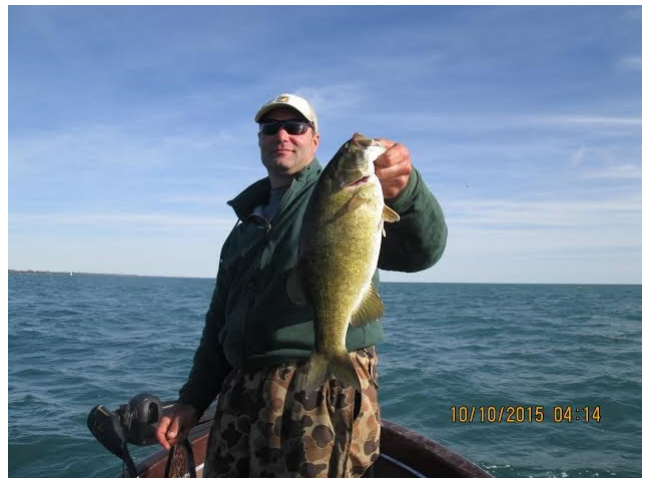
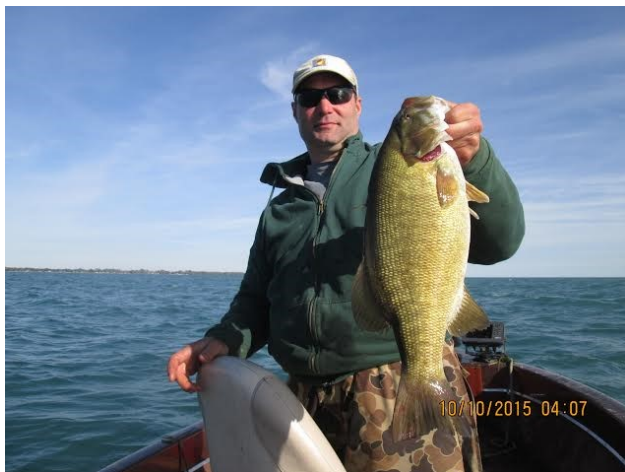
Someone asked for information on an area lake. Denny went to the blackboard and in 15 minutes, explained in detail what makes the lake tick. The map shown below illustrates the entire shoreline where he drew in every bar and hump and detailed why each structure was productive...or unproductive.

Many fishermen pay big money for not even a tenth of this information. We are so fortunate to have access to this kind of knowledge and experience!



**NEXT MEETING: November 16, 2015 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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



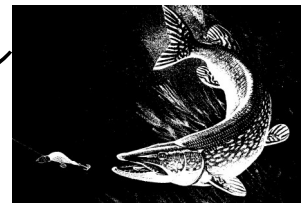
The JB1 PATRIOT

“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



We are towards the end of another season again. How quickly they seem to go as of late. And we are all a year older. We might ask ourselves, what did we learn this past year? Are there still doubts about what you need to do on any particular fishing day? Have you ever left the water wondering if you had done all that you could do?

I do know one thing..... After all of these years, all of the answers to the questions that we may have are covered in the green book. How many times have you went through the green book or the home study and found something that you may have missed? How many times have you looked at it this year? When was the last time you picked it up? Do you even know where it is? A great way to start a new season is to go through the entire Green Book or study course and set a few goals for yourself. If there are areas that you are weak, take the time to work at those things. Bring it up at the monthly meetings and we can talk about it and everyone can learn.

The best thing about Spoonplugging is that we can always get better. But we must put in the effort to do so. I realize that not everyone is able to fish every single day that they want to. But I will say that the more that you can be on the water, the faster success will come. I won't mention any names but there are two Spoonpluggers in our club that I couldn't be any more proud of because of how far they have come in such a few short years. The satisfaction that I get from their success is more than if I would have caught the fish myself.

The knowledge has been written. It is the truth about fishing. The only thing that the fisherman must do is to study, and put forth the effort. On one hand, it is a lot of hard work, on the other, it is there for the taking.

*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**

.....Another thing which might be mentioned is the problem encountered after you reach the 15 foot depth. The amount of line used, the type of line used, or the lure types used to reach depths below this 15 feet will separate the men from the boys. It becomes increasingly more difficult to have control beyond this depth. The “feel” starts to disappear, interpretation becomes harder—fishing in general just becomes more difficult and tiring. To cap all this, as depth increases, the fisherman has to become more exact. Fish react to depth in such a way that they are more difficult to catch and more exact presentation must be made in order to make them take. BUT, you must not pass up this deep water trolling just because it is difficult. Working this water or trying to place your lures correctly in this water, is the finest teacher around. It may take some time for you to become exact, but it will be well worth your effort.

If I appear to have put a lot of emphasis on trolling, you are right. In my opinion it takes far more skill to become a good troller that it does to become a good caster. For generations fishermen have been instructed in the proper procedure for casting, but never on trolling. There is a definite purpose for every trolling maneuver. And in the final analysis, it is trolling that will tell you where, when, why, and how to cast. I can’t say the same for casting.

Trolling will be a constant reminder of DEPTH and SPEED control—casting will not. If you limit yourself to casting, or overdo it, pretty soon you will be putting faith in the size, color, and action of your lures, rather than in Depth and Speed control. You can put this in your pipe and smoke it, because it will happen.

Trolling will also: more quickly eliminate unproductive water, greatly facilitates and shortens the time of mapping and interpretation, allows a greater area to be covered to find fish, produces more ‘straggler’ (Remember theses fish are important on those days which produce little or no movement), allows more varied and better speed and depth control. Competes with modern day traffic, makes fishing a family sport, no casting skill is needed, allows the use of lure weights and sizes which may not be usable with the available casting rig—plus many more.

While Spoonpluggers are taught the importance of trolling, this does not rule out casting by any means. If you want to become a good fisherman you must be in a position to do BOTH in a sane and intelligent manner.

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