



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held at the Kendallville Public Library September 21, 2015 with 17 members and guests present.

In my last newsletter, I inadvertently got the month wrong on next year's "Buck Sez" Network Outing. It is scheduled for **AUGUST 10 -13, 2016** rather than September !! Sorry for the mix-up. Too much brain-sludge!

Denny has confirmed this date with Forest Ridge Campground so we are good to go for 2016.

Dan King brought in a display of "Big 700" Spoonplugs. These were made for salt water use as well as musky baits. Some were made with a single rigid-mount hook and others had treble hooks. They were only made for a few years and none were manufactured after the fire at Buck's Baits.

Shawn Nicodemus discussed his annual trip to his Grandmother's lake house at Island Lake, Minnesota. (She is 103 years old...can that be true?) He and Mark Brown fished several lakes in the area and caught gobs of fish. Due to the slot limits on many lakes (seems each lake has a different set of rules) they had to release over 50 walleyes. No large northerns were caught...the biggest was 30 inches and they caught many smallmouth

as well. The house is within 70 miles of the Canadian border, 100 miles from Rainey Lake, Red Lake (44 inch minimum on north-erns!!) Leech Lake, Winnibigoshish, Cut Foot Sioux, and many other smaller lakes. They covered over 30,000 acres of lakes in 2 weeks!

John Bales also spent a week in Minnesota fishing with Fran Myers. This particular week featured a massive cold front condition which made for a very tough fishing situation. John and Fran fished some very good yellow-green lakes but caught very few bass although some nice walleyes were boated. In the 7 days, they fished 24 different lakes! Some were chains such as Lake Minnetonka which covers some 14,000 acres with all the connecting lakes. Some of the lakes were clear with weeds going as deep as 28 feet while others were yellow-green. Each lake was different; different color, different structure, etc. John stated that the structure in Minnetonka was the best he's ever seen...best inland lake he's ever fished. They caught lots of fish, but never got into a school.

Should someone host a Minnesota Outing???

NEXT MEETING: October 19, 2015 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "

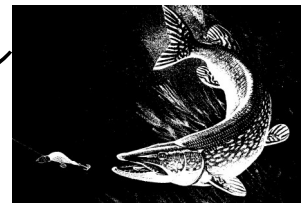


“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



It is difficult to make a catch on any lake if the fish do not become active and cooperate. Last weekend Jeff Parham and I took off and went to Lake Erie and fished the Northwest corner where the Detroit River enters Lake Erie. The last couple of years has not yielded the numbers of fish for any of us. Outside of a weather or water conditions, I am not sure what to blame.

Since the deepest water in the area of the slots that we fish is only 18 feet deep, it may be that a slight change may affect these fish more than if they had 40 feet of sanctuary depth. Although you would think that the amount of current that exists might offset a bad weather condition.

When you and I troll an area for hours on end and do not get the first hit, you begin to wonder how long we can do this while waiting for the fish to become active. Could it be that we should check out the slower speeds with jump type lures before we waste the whole day trolling without a strike? What if we don't have any known anchoring positions? How long do we continue to troll the edge of the slots and right down into the deepest depths that are available before we go to the cast? Do we have the confidence that we have checked out our depth's and speeds good enough that we should have caught a fish if they were there?

Mr. Perry says that the fish are either in the shallows, the deep or somewhere in between. When checking out these narrow slots, we already assume that even if the fish go as shallow as they can that they will not venture too far up on top of the flats outside of the slot. Who can say how long we may continue to troll before going to the slower jump type lures but we must also be confident that we have done a good job of checking out our depth's and speeds before we go to the cast. On a bad weather condition, it may be that going to the cast is the only way that we can catch a fish the entire day. But we still do not know that until we have completely gone through the process first.

The greatest thing about Spoonplugging is that we have these guidelines to follow. We know that in order to consistently have success, we must control our depths and speeds in, on , and around the features that the fish use in their movements and migrations. You may have heard that saying before. And we must do it over and over and over and over and hope that the fish become active enough for us to make a catch. We can do it trolling and we can do it casting. If we do a good job during a fishing day, we might do just fine. If we do a lousy job of any part of what we are supposed to do, then you can expect a lot less. The one thing that you must keep in mind is that a fishing failure or success must be answered in terms of depth and speed control. This is the only way to get any kind of answer to a fishing question.

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**

In the study of water color, we approach the subject from the same standpoint we did in Weather Conditions. That is, in terms of LIGHT. We should think of it as how much light penetrates the water. The MORE penetration, the worse the condition. The LESS penetration, the better the condition. CLEAR WATER means deep fish, short migrations, slow growth, and reproduction, increased weed and moss growth, and usually more water skiers. It means more of everything that spells trouble for you as a fisherman.

The more dingy, cloudy, or darker the water is, the better the conditions for fishing. So—a Spoonplugger will pay as much attention to his water color selection as he will the anything—gear, methods, weather, structure, etc. If the selection of water color is not considered, he is asking for troubles which may be avoided.

We are not saying that clear water does not contain fish. What we are saying is, water clarity will control or determine how deep fish are—where he starts from (sanctuary), just how shallow he comes on migration, and how long he stays.

Presentation of lures (or bait), and interpretation of the deeper structures can be very difficult. Which means, if you are “stuck” with a deep clear lake, you must take more time in studying the deeper structures. It means you must work longer and put forth more effort in presenting lures more correctly in deep water—if you expect any degree of success.

Your reaction might be: if this is so, why not fish at night only? Hold on a minute! We did not say an absence of light, as such, we said a light condition. We said we use light as our guide; we’re sure other factors are involved, but this does not change our original thought. If we had a clear water situation, and the fish did not move in the daytime, our “guideline” would dictate we wait for a darker condition of light to cause the fish to come far enough for us to make contact.

To clarify this, let’s say you are fishing a deep clear lake. If a movement occurs in the middle of the afternoon, you might not be aware of it because the fish did not migrate up to where you were fishing. If you stayed on the lake into the night, you would draw a blank, because the fish had already moved, and probably would not move again until the next morning.

When you are faced with deep clear lakes, fishing at night does have its good points, but it does not mean the fish will move every night, regardless what the weather and water conditions might be. At certain periods during mid-summer, the major movements may occur at night. If you are experiencing troubles in the daytime, check it at daylight. This should indicate the movement pattern, and you can fish accordingly. BUT you must remember, any sort of movement pattern can change overnight—it usually does—at the first weather change.

You must be aware of the fact that some species, at times DO move at night, and some species DO NOT move at night

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