



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held at the Kendallville Public Library August 17, 2015 with 14 members and guests present.

We welcomed former Northern Indiana Spoonplugger Brody Allred who now resides near Atlanta, Georgia back in the area for a brief visit.

Denny Coulardot brought in his bluegill/crappie rod to demonstrate his spinner rig setup that has been extremely effective the last couple years. He and Jeff Gill recently went to Lake Wawasee for bluegill and caught 34 up to 9.5 inches. They threw back all bluegills under 8 inches.

Denny also reported thermoclines from 12 to 32 feet, depending on water clarity. Darker waters had a shallower thermocline. Those thermoclines will undoubtedly change due to several nighttime temperatures dipping into the 40's and 50's. Even the several days of near 90 degrees won't offset the longer, cooler night temps.

Denny also brought up a good point that I had never heard before: One of the things he's noticed the last few years is that with all the weed spraying, weeds seldom grow to the top of the water's surface. This condition allows a more dynamic effect of wave action that causes erosion sediment to leach into the lakes. Good point!

"BUCK SEZ" 2015

The Annual "Buck Sez" Network Outing was held August 12-15 at Forest Ridge Campground near Columbia City, Indiana. This year netted the largest crowd yet with 87 Spoonpluggers signing the sign-in sheet and there was a count of 105 people at the Saturday night fish fry and raffle.

It seems every year our outing begins with a cold-front condition and this year was no exception. Not many fish were brought in the first day as conditions

were very tough and we were worried we might have to eat tofu instead of fish on Saturday night, however we needn't have worried. The Luley family practically single-handedly furnished the goods for the fish fry by themselves with a large stringer of walleye and bass from Lake Maxinkuckee. Many good catches followed the next couple of days and we wound up with 10 gallons of fillets and orders went out that we needn't bring fish in on Saturday.

Some surprisingly large northern pike were caught this year despite the weather conditions. Ted Malo's wife started things off with a fat 38-39 incher the first day. There were several northerns in the 35-38 category and Norm Johnson caught a 38, a 40, and a 43 incher.

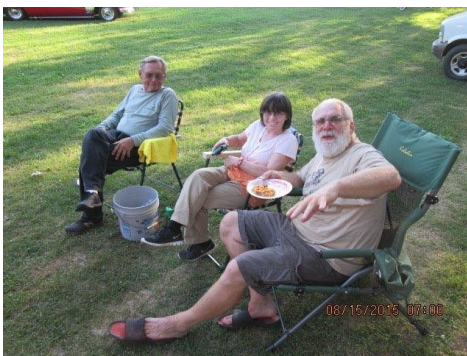
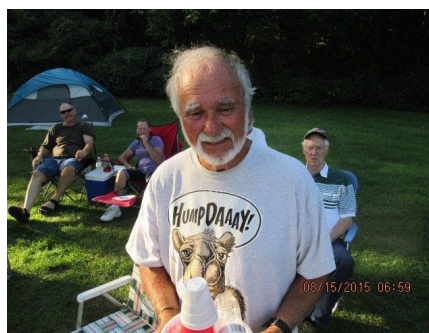
Dave Gould and Terry Keenan also caught some oversized northerns.

Each night brought dozens of Spoonpluggers and family members together for good meals, campfires, and swapping of fishing stories...some of them true! Following the Saturday night fish fry was the raffle of donated items. This year some really nice items were given away including one of Mike Beck's custom made casting rod, a large stainless steel laser-cut jumping bass donated by Bob Bridgeman, 2 custom wood lathe turned pens built by Norm Johnson with "Spoonplugger" engraved on them, A large wooden lacquered "rattletrap" sign by Dan King along with many other nice items. Many thanks to all who donate.

The date for next year's "Buck Sez" Outing has already been set for September 10-13, 2016 and will be headquartered at Forest Ridge Campground.

NEXT MEETING: September 21, 2015
at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "

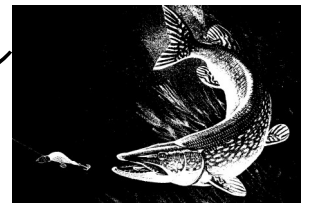


“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



From the first reading of the first edition of Buck Perry's book, I needed no one to push me to go out and learn this stuff. I had Chuck Gladieux (father in law), Denny Coulardot (the one who taught me how hard I needed to work), and the motivation from the writings of George Pazik at the beginning of Buck's Spoonplugging book. The three of us took the hard road of putting the time on the water and helping each other get better. We had to do it ourselves because there was no other information or other Spoonpluggers that were out there to help us along.

We surely had our ups and downs but the progress came a little at a time and we did get better. Our best jump came in the early 70's when we got a trailer on Coldwater Lake and we caught a lot of fish but had our troubles getting the larger fish of all species. We had no one to go to but the man who wrote the book so a letter was written and sent asking for help. Mr. Perry wrote us back and suggested a couple of lakes in southern Michigan that Terry O'Malley had mapped and off we went. The one thing that we had forgotten about was water color. It turned out that the lakes that he suggested had a great dark yellow green water color and was loaded with big bass. For the next three years or so, we caught the crap out of the big bass and found many more good spots on our own. That period of time was one of the best times in our lives, not only in the fish catching part, but in the learning part.

I continue to think back on those times a lot. We have Mr. Perry to thank for pointing us in the right direction. The rest of our success was purely self-motivation and the putting in of a lot of time and effort. I was reading the green book the other night. Mr. Perry said that the green book only contains the basics of what there is to learn about what makes a fish tick and what you and I need to do to catch him. He said there is still a lot more to learn. We are still learning.

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**

What ‘triggers’ the activity and movements of the fish?”

There is no question that it is a weather condition. But, we doubt if anyone knows the exact part that starts and stops the movements. It could be a combination of many things. We have our ideas but we have no definite FACTS. We feel LIGHT plays a major role, and Buck can quite often predict when a movement is about to begin, or when one is in progress, by his observations of the light present. He uses his LIGHT observations as his guide to the activity and movements of the fish—for he says: “If my light observations give me the answers, that’s good enough for me.”

One thing we should all agree on is the movements of the fish are not “triggered” or controlled by their hunger. We would have a hard time figuring out why all the fish in the lake become hungry at the same time. And, it would not explain the activity and movement without feeding. A game fish can be made to “strike”—this is his nature. We never expect to catch our fish feeding, but we’re happy when this occurs.

You may want to know if the moon has any effect on the fish? We have not been able to find any relationship between movements and the phase of the moon. If there were any, we are quite sure local weather and water conditions would completely wreck it.

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“Are fish of all sizes and age groups bunched up together down in the deep water?”

The study material said the smaller fish were not compatible with the larger fish. We classify the smaller fish into a group, called “yearlings.” These are normally from one to three years old. Some may be older, but where growth is good, you can view the smaller fish group as being of this age. A better way probably to view the smaller fish would be to say, until they reach about 2-2 1/2 pounds, they are not compatible with the larger fish. When the larger fish get on the move, the yearlings scoot to the safety of the shallows.

You will find, in some instances, where a school of bigger fish are all about the same size. At other times, they will come in several different sizes. The age, fertility, and reproduction of a body of water would have a bearing on the sizes in any particular school.

* * * * *

“Are there fishing situations where the fish, when they move towards shallower water, do not move toward or along structure such as bars, but will move shallower by going ‘vertically’ toward the surface?”

This Spoonplugging (structure fishing) study is primarily concerned with the larger species of game fish (bass, walleye, northern pike, muskies, stripers, etc.). However, there are certain water situations and certain species of fish where part of a movement may be, at times, directly toward the surface. The fish may be “drawn” toward the surface due to some attraction or “noise.” However, all the movements would be related to structure or some bottom feature; AND, the upward movement (toward the surface) will occur only AFTER the fish become active and moving. In a later study we will discuss fishing situations

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