



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER



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The Last meeting was held February 17, 2005 at the Kendallville Public Library with 15 members present.

It was announced that President Denny had his picture appear in the MUCC (Michigan United Conservation Clubs) magazine recently. He was holding the a tiger muskie caught on a Spoonplug a few years back....and this time it showed him wearing his "Buck's Baits" hat!! The picture has been used before but with the hat cropped from the photo. Discussion took place concerning the new Spoonplugging discussion board and the new Buck's Baits website: www.spoonplugging.net & www.buckperry.com respectively.

John Bales reported that there is no ice whatsoever below the Sylvan Lake dam and Denny announced he has put his ice-fishing gear back in storage so it's now official....spring is on the way. Now if we can just convince Mother Nature!!

Denny stated that early muskies can be up on the flats near their known summer spots when the ice first comes off the lakes. This is one of the few times we can fish this shallow and hope to make a catch for the entire season.

John gave a brief lecture on the procedures to effectively run a breakline and how to locate a contact point. He explained what you need to look for on your flasher that indicates a breakline and how to locate the most pronounced breakline. He also gave a short talk on mud-lines and how to fish them. These are typically breaklines that are caused by differences in bottom content rather than increases or

decreases in depth. They can be one of the most difficult breaklines to fish. This lead to a discussion of graphs vs flashers. Most of the members prefer the flasher units because of they are real-time information and the fact that most of us have never used anything but. A few members prefer and use LCD graphs effectively. The key is knowing what we are looking at. Both flashers and graphs can give us information that can be misinterpreted and it can take a lot of time and effort to learn what is REALLY there. Many improvements have been made in graphs in the past few years. The top of the line graphs are faster and have much better resolution than some of the older models.

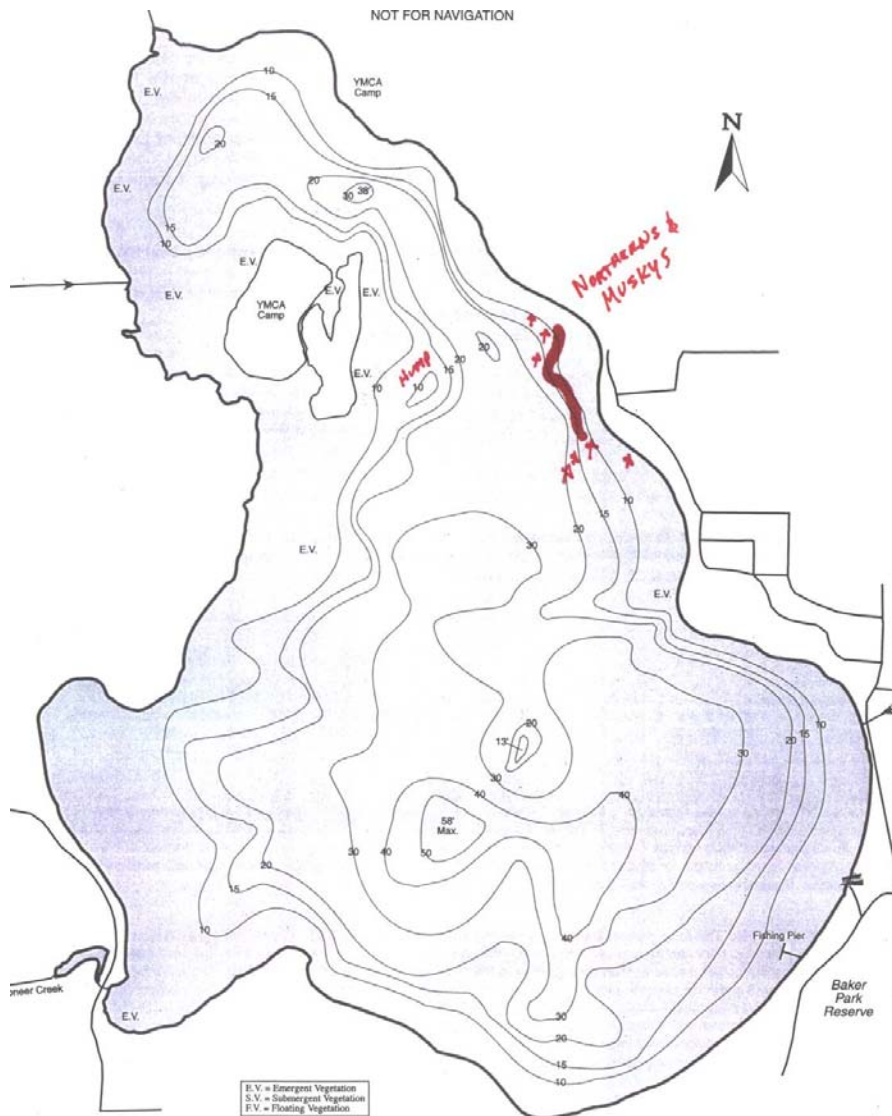
The important thing to remember whether we are using a graph or a flasher is neither will tell us everything that is going on downstairs. The Spoonplug will give us a lot of information as well. We must realize that both are tools to be used to gain a better understanding of the waters we are fishing. Neither flashers or graphs have hooks, therefore they cannot catch a fish for us. Our mapping and interpretation will ultimately lead us to consistent catches and we must learn to use all the tools available to us in order to do an effective job. The Spoonplug is often overlooked in this process yet it is the most effective tool we have in our boat! And it DOES have hooks!!

Next Meeting: March 21, 2005 (First day of Spring!!) at Kendallville Public Library (basement) 6:30 P.M.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



This is Mike Beck of Maple Lake, Minnesota with a nice muskie caught on Independence Lake. Mike moved from Indiana to Minnesota a few years ago and has been having a ball pestering the fish. This Lake has a 4 ft weedline (Great water color) and has lots of northerns, musky and walleyes. Anyone heading to Minnesota can give Mike a call for details at (320) 963-5940



“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



We can never say enough about markers and shoreline sightings. These are two tools that keep us from being lost on the water. Mr. Perry states that the shoreline does two things. First, it holds the water in the lake and it enables us to get shoreline sightings. Since we cannot see what is under the water, we must use something for a reference point when doing any kind of fishing. None of us are good enough in our interpretation of a fishing situation without the use of markers or shoreline sightings to be able to make a correct trolling pass or the right cast without some kind of reference point. If you are contour trolling a nine foot breakline around a bar and all of a sudden there is a 90 degree turn to the left and you do not throw a marker, the minute you turn your head or take your eyes off of the bubbles in the water where the boat was turned you are lost! Your marker that should have been in your reach should have been thrown and now you know exactly where this feature is and you are not lost. This is the difference between a fisherman that will learn from his efforts and one that will be a half @\$%^ fisherman until he learns to use the tools.

Let's say that instead of just noticing that the breakline made a turn, we actually hit a fish when our lure ran up onto this finger. The fisherman who did not throw a marker lands the fish and now has no idea of where to make another trolling pass or where to anchor the boat and go to the cast. The only thing that he can do is go back and try to make that pass using the depth meter to keep the lure in position. What chance do you think that exact pass can be made again without the use of a marker or a shoreline sighting? The fisherman who did throw the marker as soon as the fish took knows where to make the next trolling pass and also knows about where to put the boat and go to the cast. This one move in throwing a marker can benefit you in many ways. It will get you into many schools of big fish that the other fellow will miss. Once the action is over, the marker that is there will allow you to look around to the shoreline and get good shoreline sightings for future trips. Good enough sightings can be written down so that a marker may never have to be thrown again.

Many fishermen complain that they have never been into a school of big bass, yet you do not ever see a marker within reach of many.

We do not want to be lost on the water. Markers and shoreline sightings will keep you from ever being lost.

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:

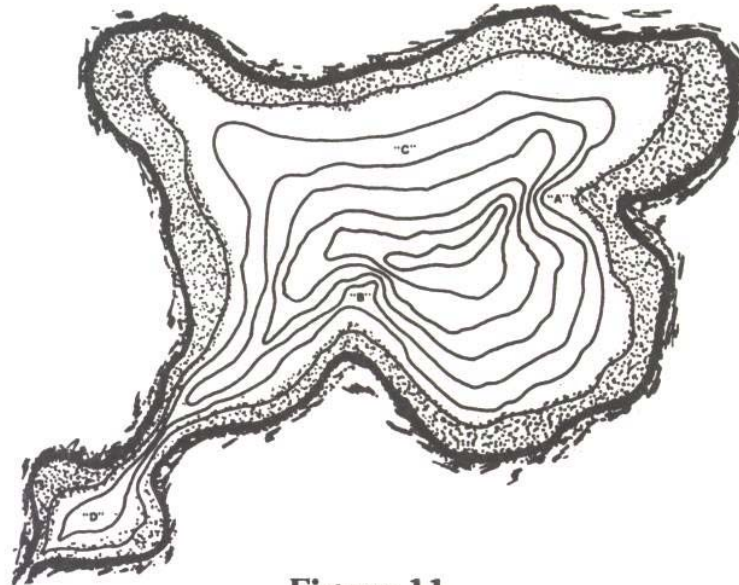


Figure 11

Figure 11 is a top view of a **natural** lake, and it contains a variety of fish—bass, walleye, northern pike, etc. When viewing the migration of fish from a **SEASONAL** point of view, it is somewhat different from that found in reservoirs. This does not imply the habits and instincts of fish are different, but in most natural lakes the **STRUCTURES USED DO NOT CHANGE, BUT WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE SEASON**. However, if by chance your natural lake has the same features as discussed in the reservoir—short structure—steep shorelines, etc., then the same principle would apply. Those natural lakes with a stream flowing through, such as a lake chain and some wider sections of streams at times called lakes, often have features as found in reservoirs.

Figure 11 shows the contour and structure available in a natural lake. Added to this is a shallow channel or slough leading off to a small expanse of water. This could be a small shallow lake connected to the main lake by a narrow channel. The deepest water in the lake is a large section in the center of the larger body of water. This would be the home of the fish (winter or summer). In studying the structure available, there are two main structures in the form of a bar (A & B). The section marked “C” has no well-defined structure, breakline, nor breaks. It is a flat, sloping bottom. The **breaklines** that occur on structures A and B are the only “steep” bottoms available. Thus they would be the **shortest** route to shallower water for limited or scattered migrations—just like the steeper sections of a reservoir. These would give the fish an immediate drop-back or access to the **deepest** water. So, in early season, and pre-spawn season, these steeper sections of the structure would be used.

As the pre-spawn season approaches, it is highly probable that in certain weather and water conditions, some fish may migrate for short periods into the feeder channel leading to the backwaters of the slough or small shallow lake. The possibility of this would increase as the spawning season approaches.

In the overall picture, the two main structures (A & B) would be considered as the main migration routes for both cold and warm seasons. In the colder pre-spawn period, the deeper breaks and breaklines would receive the **SHORT, SCATTERED, UNPREDICTABLE** migrations. As the season progresses, the movements should become better and better and be more to the shallow portions of the structures. During the spawning season, the most productive shallow places in the lake should be in the near shallows of those two main structures. If the lake has a slough or a small channel leading off into a bay, or a small section such as “D”, then this too should be checked. After the spawning season, the same main structures (A & B) would receive the migration as per weather and water conditions that exist.

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