



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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FOUNDED 1991

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The last meeting was held June 19, 2006 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members present.

Fishing reports were given and with generally good results. Mike Price reported 109 northerns caught in three days. Denny Coulardot reported 37 northerns caught one day on Wawasee. Some bass are now starting to be caught recently following the post-spawn. Dan Luley recently caught a 20 incher. The Detroit River is also producing good numbers of muskies, smallmouth and walleyes as reported by Chase Klinesteker in a recent recap of the Leoni Outing in Jackson, Michigan. Summer is in full swing and all species are beginning to cooperate.

It was also reported that Hamilton Lake has been sprayed for weeds...twice. It will be the end of July before the results of the spaying will be known as it takes a 4 week time period for the chemical to have a full effect. Hopefully no fish kills take place!

John Bales gave a demonstration on the interpretation of structure situations. Proper interpretation is a key point in a Spoonplugger being able to arrive at the fish in the shortest period of time. John gave examples of how to properly go about interpretation of a structure situation with a tall weedline. Although it takes much time on the water to hone the skills of interpretation, it is an essential ingredient to prolonged fishing success. Interpretation is something we can get better and better at throughout our fishing careers. No matter how many times we fish a structure situation, there is always something new we can discover that may add to our knowledge and increases our odds of catching a fish.

John also showed a film in which Mr. Perry explains the importance of jet contrails or "vapor trails" as a guideline. Contrails can be important indicators of the amount of moisture at different levels of the atmosphere. In the absence of any observable cloud cover, contrails can be used as a guideline to interpret the degree of light conditions. Many times we may believe that cloud cover is adequate for good low-light conditions which normally translates into better fish movements and migrations. The lack of vapor trails (from high flying jets) above this sparse lower level cloud cover can reveal a lack of moisture in the upper levels of the atmosphere that filters out much more sunlight than the lower level clouds.

Don't forget about the Muskegon Outing, July 19-23 at Fisherman's Landing Campground, Muskegon, Michigan (see enclosed details), and ALSO, our own **"Buck Sez" Outing, August 10, 11, & 12, 2006.**

We will be going over the details of this outing at our **next meeting** so please plan to attend if possible. **Spouses are invited** since they have been the "brains" of the outfit in the past, by planning the meals, etc.

We will also discuss the drawing that takes place on Saturday night following the fish fry. If you have an item to donate, please bring it to the drawing or make arrangements to get it to myself or Denny if you can't make it to the outing.

NEXT MEETING: July 17, 2006 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M. ("Buck Sez" Outing Planning)

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

LUNKER HUNTERS 15th

MUSKEGON SPOONPLUGGERS OUTING

JULY 19-23, 2006

Get your campground or motel reservations in soon! Deb Hawkins says the campground is filling up fast due to the Muskegon Air Show. Call her at: 231-726-6100

**MOTELS: Belaire Motel 231-733-2196 (belairemotel.net)
Comfort Inn 231-739-9092
Holiday Inn 1-800-846-5253 (Downtown)**

ACTIVITIES:

- Fabulous Dordan meal Saturday at 6PM**
- Thurs, Fri, and Sat eve learning sessions about the days' fishing, plus impromptu advice from experienced Spoonpluggers**
- Copies of area lake maps, Grand River**
- Hospitality Tent, videos, fellowship**
- Area sights including Submarine, Air Show, Lake Michigan beaches--bring the family**
- Terry Veltings' "Rolling Tackle Shop"**
- salmon, pike, walleye, bass, musky, etc available in area**

This network outing is to honor the late Buck Perry, the "Father of Structure Fishing", the person we owe so much to. For information, call Chase Klinesteker 616-949-8665, ckspoonpl1@aol.com

**NORTHERN INDIANA
SPOONPLUGGERS**

***ALL SPOONPLUGGERS INVITED*
ANNUAL "BUCK SEZ" OUTING
AUGUST 10, 11, & 12th, 2006**

**BASE CAMP WILL BE LOCATED AT:
FOREST RIDGE CAMP GROUND
\$15.00/NIGHT, TENT/RV (260) 327-3551 SWIMMING POOL
WATER & ELEC. (MENTION NO. IND. SPOONPLUGGERS)**

-or-

**LEE'S INN SUPER 8 MOTEL BUDGET INN
235 FRONTAGE ROAD COLUMBIA CITY (260)248-4644
COLUMBIA CITY, IN 1-800-800-8000
(260)244-5300**

**MOTELS ARE LOCATED ON US30 IN COLUMBIA CITY ABOUT 5 MILES FROM THE
CAMPGROUND AND WITHIN 15 MILES OF MOST LAKES**

***AREA LAKES INCLUDE: WEBSTER,
TIPPECANOE, WAWASEE, BARBEE CHAIN, AND MORE.**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
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(260) 691-3118 260) 854-3921**

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



The year is 1972 and the lake is Palmer Lake in south western Michigan. Let me describe it to you in terms of what chance we have to catch a fish. Our first observation of the water color tells us that this is a dark yellow green. Once we get on the lake, we find that the weeds stop growing at around 6 or 7 feet. The locals tell us that the lake has some bass and a good population of northern pike. The map that we purchased from the local bait shop shows a good sized bar with several nice fingers. There are three or four other areas that we need to have a look at also. There are about 400 acres of water to check out, the weather has been stable and our Spoonplugging knowledge tells us that we have a good chance of putting some fish in the boat today.

Today is June 22nd, and the year is 2006. We are headed to Palmer Lake in southern Michigan and plan to fish for the northern pike. We arrive at the ramp around 8 am to find one parking spot left. As we get the boat ready, we observe the color of the water which looks a lot like what the waitress served in a glass with ice at breakfast. We can see a calm area around the deeper hole in front of the ramp which is the weeds that grow all the way to the surface and finally mat up on top of the water. We know that this lake had some fish in it at one time so we launch the boat anyways. Once we get out there, our depth meter tells us that the tall weeds grow to around 14 feet. We want to contour troll this depth to see if anything is happening. We soon find that the tall weeds grow to 16 feet, so we moved out a little to keep from being fouled all the time. We could not get near the best bar because the bass boats had it covered already. We concentrated on the second best area and checked out our different breaklines. We soon discovered that there were weeds growing as deep as 20 feet.

After about three hours of working the weedline and several other breaklines, we decided to go to a lake ten miles away that had good water color and a 5 foot weedline. It was on the second lake that we caught all of our fish and on 400's, 250's and 200's. There was one other boat on this dirty lake.

After 30 years of Spoonplugging, and knowing that water color is the single most important observation that a fisherman can make, and I still put the boat in on that drinking water lake? What was I thinking? And once we got to the lake with good color, it took about 50 yards of trolling with a 400 on No-Bo and we had our first fish. We are all still learning.

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:

In working tall weeds, the different size lure should be worked alongside these weeds, and just as close to them as possible.

The contour of the weedline is not being followed properly if the lure is continually fouled—this indicates the lure is too close. Neither is the contour being followed properly if the lure is never fouled—this indicates the lure is too far out. After a few passes, especially if a marker is used, the route to take should be known.;

If any fish movement has extended back into the weeds, this does not mean all the fish are in the weeds—some will still be along the outer edge. Quite often fish move up to the weedline, but do not penetrate or go back into the weeds.

* * * * *

A mistake too often made by fishermen is to put too much faith in one particular size lure that can work only one section of water. At times, this particular size may be the greatest thing ever developed—but, it could have been used earlier or later, and as far as catching fish is concerned, was a piece of junk.

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After working all sections of the shallows and as deep as possible on the structure, and no fish are found, the question arises—“What should be done now?”

- * If the area just fished is known to be productive, exercise patience for the fish to move, with efforts concentrated as deep on the migration route as possible. Preferably at the spot where fish first make contact with the structure (contact point).
- * If there is some doubt the water at this particular structure has been “strained” thoroughly—repeat all steps.
- * If there is any question or doubt concerning the direction of nature of this structure, work it until its exact nature is known.
- * Check other shorelines for additional structures. As many of these as possible should be known. In looking for structures and working them, you not only learn the lake, but the experience gained is invaluable.
- * When additional hot-spots and structures are known, these should be checked. Some particular condition could delay migration in one particular area, but not in another.
- * Run shallows for stragglers, periodically returning to check structures for migration.

However, a word of caution—don’t go tearing up and down the lake trying to find fish at the expense of thoroughness. Work each structure thoroughly before leaving it.

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When Trolling in deep water, some fishermen experience difficulty in returning to the same spot where a fish has been caught. This difficulty can be overcome by using markers and shoreline sightings.

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The fisherman who learns SPOONPLUGGING will always expect to catch his limit of fish and anything less will be understood. The only things that should defeat a SPOONPLUGGER is the extreme weather conditions such as a cold front, or the time spent on the waters was not long enough to include a migration, or to find the good areas.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”