



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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**FOUNDED 1991**

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The last meeting was held July 16, 2007 with 24 members and guest present.

We welcomed a new prospective member, Wayne Pruiett of Kendallville, who stopped by to get an idea of what Spoonplugging was all about.

We apologize to Wayne, as we probably were negligent in answering many questions as most of the meeting was devoted to the planning of the upcoming "Buck Sez" Network Outing to be held at the Forest Ridge Campground located northwest of Columbia City, Indiana. Hopefully Wayne will return to the next meeting, or better yet, show up at the outing for a first-hand look at Spoonplugging and Spoonpluggers of all degrees of experience. As President Denny has said on many occasions: "If you aren't attending the outings, you are missing out on some of the best information from the some of the best Spoonpluggers in the country."

For those coming in early, we will begin setting things up on Wednesday afternoon. Things will get under way on Thursday and the Thursday evening meal will feature the world-famous Charlie's Chili and dogs. Friday evening's meal will feature newcomer, David Gould's Stew. We haven't been treated to this dish yet, but David assures us satisfaction. Saturday evening will be the annual Fish Fry & Taters, followed by the free raffle.

Members having items to donate should get them to Ted Walter sometime before Saturday, if possible. Fishing reports were spotty. Following a long period of extreme hot weather, the conditions have become a bit unstable. The rains were a welcome relief from the drought in many areas, however, some area

storms were severe with up to 70 mph winds and hail. Now that Mother Nature has that out of her system, we should be able to get stable conditions at least until after the Outing!!!

David Erdly reported that many if not most area lakes are being treated with herbicides for weed control this year. Most often used are the chemicals Sonar and Aquathol. Weed control continues to be a polarizing debate between lake property owners and fishermen. What isn't debatable is the speed with which are lakes are becoming ever more clear.

Clearer lakes don't necessarily mean CLEANER lakes, however, looks seem to be everything, so we need to be aware that fishing is bound to get tougher going forward. This is going to give Spoonplugging knowledge even greater importance in the future as good catches will probably become a rare event for the vast majority of fishermen, which will lead to complaints to the DNR concerning the declining quality of fishing, which could will lead to other drastic measures such as restocking lakes that may not need the restocking, etc. Fish adapt to their conditions....most fishermen don't!

Denny suggested that if you are on-line that you visit the Spoonplugger Forum as well as the Buck's Baits discussion board. Both sites have a wealth of information regarding Spoonplugging, items for sale and other topics of discussion.

**NEXT MEETING: August 20, 2007**  
at the NEW Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

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



Denny Coulardot with a pair of toothy critters.



David Gould with a couple of very nice northern from area lakes



Mike Whirrett with a good bass and a nice northern. I am assuming these two photos were taken on different days although in Indiana....you never know!

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



# *Good Spoonplugging*

**By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor**



We talk about many subjects in fishing so that we can all get better. Mr. Perry left us with a mountain of fishing information. For those who study and believe, you have a chance to become a very good fisherman with a lot of time and effort on the water.

Spoonplugging involves a lot of variables. Conditions are changing constantly. Conditions of weather and water are changing constantly. We must adapt to these conditions if we want to be able to catch fish consistently. The approach to catching fish will not always be exactly the same, so we must react to the conditions that we face on that particular day. We must check out our depths and speeds constantly. This means that we must check out all depths, from the shallows to the deep and do it many times during a fishing day. Our speeds must be checked out constantly also. It is the only way that we can know what the fish want for that particular time.

A lot of controls that we talk about are of the mechanical type. This requires some skill on behalf of the fisherman in order to make use of all of his tools and fishing knowledge. There is, however, one choice of controls that we all can make and it takes no skill at all. This choice is our most important observation that we can make in our fishing. It can and will make the difference between bringing home the bacon or stopping at McDonalds on the way home. Water color is that choice. Mr. Perry based all of our study material on looking for lakes with the best water color. I don't know how many of you realize how important it is to your success in catching fish.

Our natural lakes are changing ever so quickly. The zebra mussels and new sewer systems around our lakes are making our waters more clear. Weedlines have gone from 8 feet to 20 in a few short years. Where this happens, moss can grow to depths of 40 feet. We can no longer walk our lures on the bottoms without fouling our lures. This greatly reduces the percentage rate of our catching the fish. For this reason alone, water color becomes even more important of a choice to the fisherman than it ever was. Always remember water color is #1!

*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:**

*“Each time I get to a new section, such as this weather and water study, and after reading your opening remarks, I keep asking myself: Why does he break all this material down into ‘sections?’ Why not state a fact, and then point out what we must do to catch the fish? Why go through all this study on the different subject matter?”*

My reaction to this is practically the same as yours. For too many years, I have preached the basic facts by showing, speaking, and written word. In fact, all the material found in this big study was in the first small sheet printed years and years ago. The reason for this detailed expanded version of Basics is due to the fact the fisherman did not hear, or did not understand. This is by no means a reflection on the intelligence of the fisherman. It was due to what he had heard, said, and done, and what others were saying or doing. His head was filled with doubts and unanswered questions. The purpose of this study is to see if doubts and questions can be so eliminated as **to make more fishermen more aware of fishing facts.**

When all is said and done, all that was ever needed was the Spoonplugger’s Basic Guideline. We have been stressing this point all through this study. That’s all I used, and it was all some of the better fishermen in the country used. If you grasp what was said in the Basic Guideline, you can see it’s all there.

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