



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The January meeting was held January 15, 2007 at the Kendallville Public Library with 15 members present.

Denny Coulardot reported that due to the continuing mild weather, he is getting a head-start on his 2007 musky count. He has 7 since the first of the year. Most of the muskies are being caught on the inside turns on the sharpest breaks to the deepest water. He had been catching them right on the end of the bars, but now they seem to have moved to their classic winter positions of the shortest distance from deep water to the shallows.

John Bales has been doing quite well on bass. He reported being off work for the holidays from December 21, to January 8th and fished 12 1/2 of those days. In that time frame he and his partners caught over 450 bass. They weren't all big ones, although he reported a 20", 19" and 3-18" in the previous week along with some walleyes. The fall is typically the best fishing season of the year and this year was no exception, even with less than optimum conditions.

If there are any fisherpersons out there who don't yet believe shoreline trees are the comedians of the plant world, then this story should convince them otherwise.

John Bales and Jeff Parham were fishing recently on an area lake. It was getting late and they decided after one more cast they'd leave. John's cast was a little long. So long, in fact, that his Silver Buddy lure sailed into an overhanging tree. "No problem", John said to Jeff, "I'll just pop it up over that branch". Of course we all know from experience

that trees and fishing tackle, like oil and water, just DO NOT mix. We have all uttered those infamous words: "I'll just pop it over that branch". And we all know what happens immediately thereafter: The lure makes several orbits around the branch and then the hooks become hopelessly embedded into the bark. After checking over each shoulder to see if anyone was rolling on their lawn holding their sides the two motored underneath the branch that had shanghaied the lure and began pulling and tugging in an attempt to free it. But the branch held unto the lure like a mother being deprived of her young. John pulled and jerked, jerked and pulled until he finally gave up and agreed to award the tree the Silver medal for uncommon persistence.

John bit the line in two, waved farewell to his Silver Buddy, started the motor and began to turn the boat toward home. As he did so, the branch FELL OFF and into the water. The tree obviously figured the two may have been serious when they mentioned "chainsaw" in their discussion of recovery methods and decided the joke had gone far enough. John fished the branch, line and lure out of the water, the two shook their heads and had a good laugh and headed home. Those pesky trees.

Remember: **Dues**. A book of stamps for me in January and renew your membership to the National Spoonpluggers BEFORE June.

NEXT MEETING: February 19, 2007
(President's Day) At the Kendallville Public Library, 6:30 P.M.
GO COLTS!

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Denny Coulardot above showing he still knows how bass are caught and Mike Price below with some early season muskies.



“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”



Good Spoonplugging



By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor

Buck Perry was a man who had a lot of fishing knowledge and shared it with many. If my car was broken and someone went out of their way to fix my car and refused payment, I figure that I owe him something. Sometime down the road, he will be on the list to go fishing because that is the best thing that I have to offer.

To have an opportunity to repay someone for something that has been done for you should be an honor. There is a lot that we as Spoonpluggers can do to pay back Mr. Perry for sharing his fishing knowledge with us, and we need this support now more than ever. With the passing of Mr. Perry, we have a piece of Spoonplugging that is gone forever and he was our main motivation.

With his passing, we must be our own motivators. With Spoonpluggers spread out all over the country, our biggest fear would be a lack of communication with each other. We try to keep in touch through the National newsletter. This is our most important way of keeping in touch with each other.

In 2007, we need to make an effort to keep Spoonplugging alive and well. We need everyone to be a member of the National Spoonplugger newsletter. We need the clubs to be active and we need every club to have one or more people who can motivate the others. This means having meetings and spending some time on educating the group at every meeting. Allow everyone to participate in discussions. We need everyone that is a Spoonplugger to take new people out fishing and show them that what we have is good. Especially the young people.

We need those that are having success to write in and tell their stories. There is nothing better than sharing a personal experience which has been learned. The group you have shared this knowledge with can then take it with them in their next endeavor.

We need to make an effort to keep Spoonplugging going for a long time. We need the clubs to be active. We want the outings to be many in numbers and continue sharing Spoonplugging knowledge with all that would want it. We all need to make the effort in whatever direction is needed to do your part in keeping this thing going. It is just too good of a thing to not have.

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:

During your fishing **you should not think of WEATHER in terms of temperature.** This does not mean changes in temperature will not affect fish, nor does it mean the fisherman doesn't change his tactics. (Later on you'll find if present your lures and bait properly, you'll automatically take care of temperature). **YOU SHOULD VIEW WEATHER (and TEMPERATURE) IN TERMS OF LIGHT.**

With this in mind, we can now make a Spoonplugger's guideline:

THE LIGHTER OR BRIGHTER IT IS, THE TOUGHER THE FISHING WILL BE. THE DARKER THE CONDITIONS, THE BETTER IT WILL BE.

We have no way of knowing how many types of weather conditions might occur during a fishing season. One look at any weather map will show all types of high or low pressure areas, several kinds of “fronts,” storms, hot areas or wet or dry areas. You name it—they show it.

We have to pick one of these conditions for a starting point. One that we can use as a **guide** to our fishing. One that will be the **key** for determining our chances for success, and the one that will let us **plan** our tactics. In other words, we have to set us up another guideline. **This guideline is a COLD FRONT.**

It should be noted, the word **COLD** does not necessarily mean there is a big drop in temperature. The front is actually the dividing line between two masses of air. The difference in temperature of these two masses can vary; at times it will be great, while at others, hardly noticeable. The main difference between the two air masses is that one is warmer, holding a higher moisture content, while the other is a drier mass of cooler air. The former is usually associated with a **LOW**, while the latter is associated with **HIGH**. The masses of air which move through the United States are normally from the west to the east. This direction can vary, but for all practical purposes this is the dominant direction.

The front itself is usually associated with very rough weather, such as heavy rain, squall lines (thunder storms), etc. This is especially true when there is a great difference between the two masses of air. If the temperature difference is slight, these fronts are much less discernible.

When observing or viewing a **COLD FRONT**, here again, **we do not view it in terms of temperature, but instead relate it to LIGHT conditions.** There is a relationship between the light and the temperature, and if there is a great drop in temperature after a front passes, and it lasts for a long period, the light will be affected accordingly.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”