



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held at the “old” Kendallville Public Library on May 21, 2007 with 13 members present. The next meeting will be at the NEW Kendallville Public Library on the west side of Bixler Lake...east side of Kendallville. (See map on following page.)

President Denny stated that fishing had been tough going since the last meeting., although he is up to 29 muskies so far this year. Most have been caught on 400's. The muskies spawned a month ago and DJ Erdly reported that the DNR had netted and harvested eggs and milt on Webster. They only got 1 or 2 muskies in their nets the first couple of days, followed by 69 muskies on the third day.

The bass should also have spawned now with the crappie in the on-deck circle, followed by the bluegills. D.J. also reported that several area lakes that have been sprayed for weeds are now due to be re-treated.

John & D.J. recently fished an area lake and were very successful for both bass and walleye. The highlight of the trip was John catching a large channel cat that he had targeted for the frying pan until D.J. gave the 'cat a quick release with a good poke of the net. John repaid the gesture by showing D.J. his famous technique of why paybacks are a b%#@h by netting D.J.'s next bass and with a sharp spin of the net, embedding every exposed hook of the Spoonplug in the netting! Some lessons just have to be experienced to be truly inspirational!

Denny gave a handout to members of the approxi-

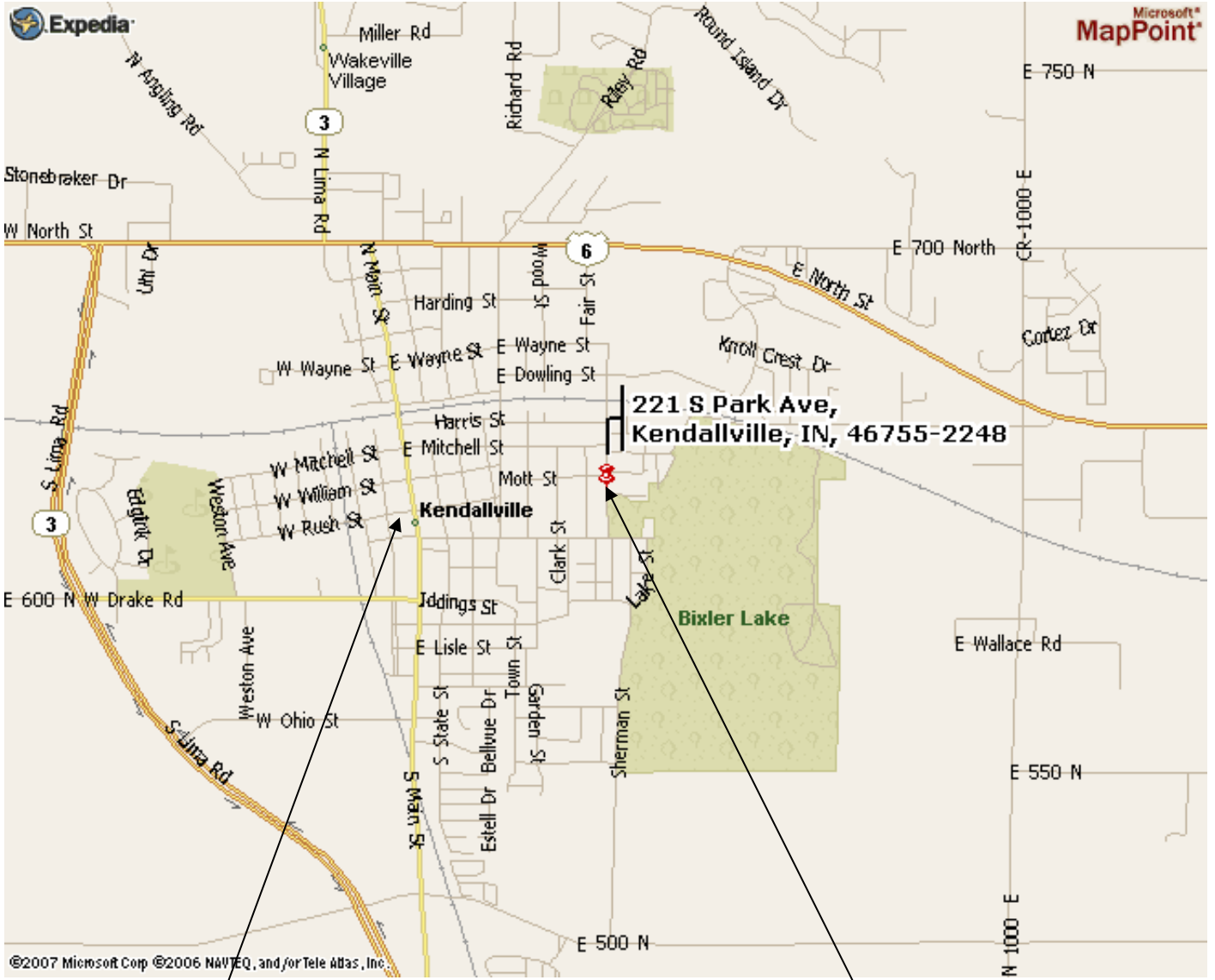
mate number of layers to achieve proper depth with each size Spoonplug. (with a full spool of line) John Bales discussed the importance of line length stating that typically longer lines are used in the early season and gradually shortened to the shortest line possible during the warmer months. He explained that in the early season, the waters are still colder and the fish's metabolism is much slower. The fish may be attracted to the passing boat, but if a short line is used, the lure may pass them by before they have a chance to react. The longer line gives the fish a little more time to “wake up” before the lure come through.

A discussion of the St. Joe River and the importance of the outside channel bends, delta humps and migration patterns of walleye followed.

The next Network Outing will be the Leoni Outing in Jackson, Michigan at John Zaborny's house, June 13-17, 2007. John will have camping in his yard, has bathroom and shower facilities and a breakfast and supper each day. If you have questions you can contact John at (517) 414-3596 or email at jzaborny@sbcglobal.net. The address is 5425 E. Michigan Ave. Jackson, Michigan 49201.

**NEXT MEETING: June 18, 2007 at the
new Kendallville Public Library located
at 221 S. Park Avenue, Kendallville, Indi-
ana 46755**

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”



“Old” library location @ 126 W. Rush

NEW LOCATION @ 221 S. PARK AVENUE, KENDALLVILLE

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



How do you think when you are on the water? We arrive at the launch at 7 am. We have noted the weather conditions for the last several days and know what the weather forecast is for today. We are fishing on a lowland reservoir today and know that the section near the launch is the clearest water. This will mean that the movements in this area will not be as good as the upper end and there is some moss on the bottom which makes working this area more difficult. We want to head towards the better water color which is at the east end but need to put a lure in the water to see if anything is happening on the way there.

We put a lure in the water when entering the narrows since we have to idle through that area anyway. The weedline goes out to about 8 feet so we will put on a 250 and get close to the weeds. We follow the shoreline for a while and as we near the hump in the center of the narrows we make a pass right across the tip of the hump and bump our lures across it. We have line sights to do so.

We head to the left so that we can hit the end of a short bar just before we get out of the narrows. We bump across it and continue along the shoreline to the next bar. We are now into where we could put the boat on plane and shoot to the best water color but we have another nice bar just down the shore that we should hit.

We are now entering an area that is chock full of weeds so we reel in and head for the fishing water. No fish were caught with the 250's so we have to figure that not much is moving yet.

The section with water color has weeds to around 8 feet and the deepest water is only 12 feet. We want to start at the weedline so as to not miss anything. This whole basin is not very large so it won't take long. With the weedline checked, we put on a 200 and move out a little to work the 9 to 9 1/2 feet. A pass is made and no fish are caught. The 200 is left on and we move right out into the deepest part of the channel. We zig-zag the channel from one end to the other with no results. Our next step is to cast the two deeper sections with jump type lures to check the slower speeds. This we do with no results. Our next thoughts are do we start over again and have patience or do we go check out another area. The walleye were here last week. Have they moved into another section or have they not yet become active? We chose to go check another section. We now have two deeper holes to check down to about 28 feet. The breaklines are the weedline, a breakline at 13, 16, 18 and 24 feet. All of these must be checked. We start at the weedline and work each one down to the 24 foot breakline. No fish. We now have to anchor and fan cast jump type lures to check our slower speeds. We get a few walleyes and bass on each spot by casting jump type lures. Are the fish just now becoming active or are the slower speeds the ticket for the conditions? Three more spots are anchored on in the other hole and the same results are had. A few bass and walleyes on the cast with jump type lures.

We leave this area to get back to the best water color and find that we can now get the bigger fish on the troll and the cast. It is now known that the fish have become active and we have a short time to make hay. About an hour of action and things are beginning to slow down. The hits and takes are farther and fewer between on both the troll and the cast. As always, we learn by trolling and casting both. We observe the conditions and the changes in those conditions and how they effect the movements of the fish for that particular day. We can many times see those changes in the light conditions and learn by observing.

There is never a day that we can't learn a bit more.

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 the study of water color, we approach the subject from the same standpoint we did in Weather Conditions. That is, in terms of LIGHT. We should think of it as how much light penetrates the water. The MORE penetration, the worse the condition. The LESS penetration, the better the condition. CLEAR WATER means deep fish, short migrations, slow growth, and reproduction, increased weed and moss growth, and usually more water skiers. It means more of everything that spells trouble for you as a fisherman.

The more dingy, cloudy, or darker the water is, the better the conditions for fishing. So—a Spoon-plugger will pay as much attention to his water color selection as he will the anything—gear, methods, weather, structure, etc. If the selection of water color is not considered, he is asking for troubles which may be avoided.

We are not saying that clear water does not contain fish. What we are saying is, water clarity will control or determine **how deep** fish are—where he starts from (sanctuary), **just how shallow he comes on migration, and how long he stays.**

Presentation of lures (or bait), and interpretation of the deeper structures can be very difficult. Which means, if you are “stuck” with a deep clear lake, you must take **more** time in studying the deeper structures. It means you must work **longer** and put forth **more** effort in presenting lures **more** correctly in deep water—if you expect any degree of success.

Your reaction might be: if this is so, why not fish at night only? Hold on a minute! We did not say an absence of light, as such, we said a light **condition**. We said we use light as our guide; we’re sure other factors are involved, but this does not change our original thought. If we had a clear water situation, and the fish did not move in the daytime, our “guideline” would dictate we wait for a darker condition of light to cause the fish to come **far enough** for us to make contact.

To clarify this, let’s say you are fishing a deep clear lake. If a movement occurs in the middle of the afternoon, you might not be aware of it because the fish did not migrate up to where you were fishing. If you stayed on the lake into the night, you would draw a blank, because the fish had **already moved**, and probably would not move again until the next morning.

When you are faced with deep clear lakes, fishing at night does have its good points, but it does not mean the fish will move every night, regardless what the weather and water conditions might be. At certain periods during mid-summer, the major movements may occur at night, If you are experiencing troubles in the daytime, check it at **daylight**. This should indicate the movement pattern, and you can fish accordingly. **BUT** you must remember, any sort of movement pattern can change overnight—it usually does—at the first weather change.

You must be aware of the fact that some species, at times **DO** move at night, and some species **DO NOT** move at night

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