



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held October 15, 2007 with 15 members present.

Mike Whirrett reported that he had removed an embedded hook from the hand of Dave Gould on a recent fishing trip. He used the method our club has been using for years and Mike reported that it worked like a charm. I've reprinted the method on the following page.

John Bales reported that Spoonplugs are still readily available. Some people have been reporting that they cannot get certain kinds such as nickel, but the painted lures are not a problem. Bucks Baits have mentioned that the price of brass has been extremely high priced and they have been hoping for some price relief. Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc (primarily) and both these, as well as many other base metal prices have soared over the past couple of years due to the huge demand in China for metals, cement, oil, you-name-it. It also takes a lot of energy to produce brass and everyone knows what energy prices have done. Bottom line is, we can still get the lures, but an increase in prices would not be surprising.

Denny Coulardot reported that the muskies have been going of late. He caught 5 in 6 ft. of water the day of the meeting. He has also been catching quite a few bass, but not in 6 ft. of water! Denny suggests that if you going for the muskies that you spend some time sharpening your hooks beforehand. You may be able to get by without super sharp hooks on most species, but muskies have armor-plated mouths and ultra sharp hooks are one of the keys to successful hookups.

Dan Luley reported that he and his son had been having good success with northerns on Wawasee. In two days of fishing they caught 28 and 30 respectively.

Denny stated that some of the newer Spoonpluggers may be having trouble detecting breaklines. In many lakes, the breaklines are subtle and can be hard for to find until enough experience is gained. He suggested trolling at 2 ft. intervals if breaklines cannot be detected. This may take a little more time that concentrating on a particular depth, but the Spoonplugger should arrive at the fish by using this approach. He also explained that the baitfish school up in tighter knots during the fall period. He advised that we keep our eyes open for these schools of baitfish as we are trolling. If the baitfish are at, say, 15ft, it is unlikely that the predators are shallower than that. This is his fall hand rule to keep focused on the depth that has the higher percentage of producing fish.

John Bales discussed the upcoming seasonal changes. He read a few paragraphs from Volume 4, *Weather & Water* of the Home Study Series, page 15: **Water Temperature Changes**. This topic is about 3 pages long and is an important piece to read at this time of year so that we thoroughly understand the effects of weather and water conditions and how they affect the fish.

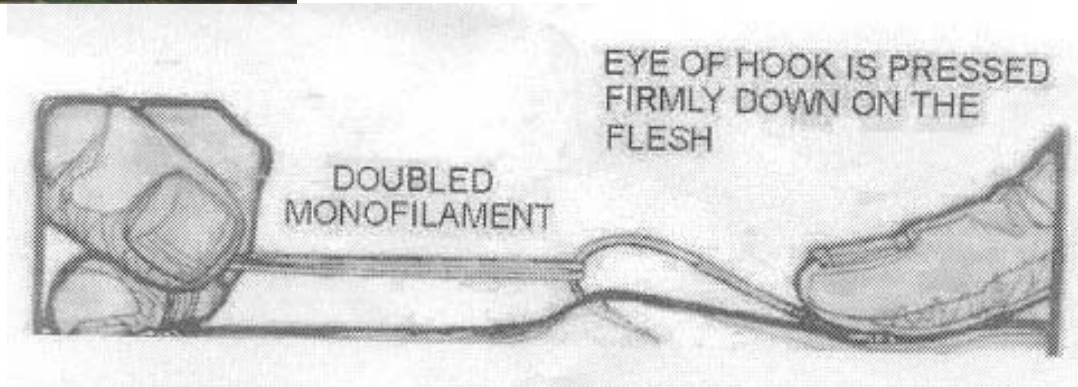
**NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2007 at
the Kendallville Public Library. 6:30 P.M.**

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



RIGHT: Mike Price with a nice late-season musky and a dandy largemouth.

LEFT: Denny Coulardot with a very nice Lake Erie smallmouth



I haven't put this in a newsletter in a while so this is a re-run of a piece from an old newsletter. This is a 10 minute project to have made up (and probably improved upon) that could save you a lot of time, pain, and emergency room bill:

Sooner or later nearly every fisherman becomes a victim of his own or a fishing partner's hook. A fishing trip can be ruined by a wild cast and most methods I've heard concerning hook removal don't sound that feasible. Like poking the hook on through and cutting off the barb, etc. Might want to carry a bullet to bite on if you try that one.

But, according to several sources within our own club, this is a method that works in a lot of cases. It is nearly painless and has actually been taught in a lot of emergency rooms around the country.

All you need is a piece of strong cord (No-Bo will work fine). Loop the line or cord around the embedded hook. Then press down the eye-end of the hook (for treble hooks it's best to cut off the exposed hooks to make that end as long and easy to press on as possible...and to prevent yet another injury when the hook comes out.) Pressing downward on the eye-end should make the embedded hook arch upward. If you're working with a buddy, that part would be a good job for him. This leaves you with both hands to do the next step which is to give the line or cord a good, sharp, crisp YANK. The hook pops out painlessly because the barb is prevented from grabbing meat as it exits. It's actually rolling out at an angle that keeps the barb from grabbing onto anything! I've used this method once on Duane Grate and it worked splendidly as it has for several others in our club.

It should be noted that while this method works in many instances, it won't work in each and every case. A hook embedded in the face, for instance, may require a professional touch. As your mother used to say:

"You could put an eye out!"

So as a little winter project, rig up a cord or line with finger loops for ease of use, a little antiseptic, a couple of band aids, put it all in a zip-lock to tuck in your tackle box and you'll be all set for when you need it.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



I had a fellow ask me a question last week about his fishing. He did not understand why his fishing was so bad. Here is a fisherman that does not understand how weather and water effects the movements and migrations of the fish. Having observed him on the water and his fishing tactics and the location he was fishing, it is fairly obvious that he has no clue as to what to do to put a fish in the boat. The blame should not go on him for his lack of fishing knowledge. Mr. Perry said that they do not know that they don't know.

That sums it up fairly well. If you look around at the fisherman, not much has changed over the last 50 years. The lures have changed but the average Joe is still fishing the same way. The boats and tackle have gotten bigger and more sophisticated. The way that the fishermen go about their fishing has changed little.

Imagine this. You go fishing and you throw everything in your tackle box and you fish from daylight till dark and you do not catch a fish. There are a couple of ways that you can think about this. Maybe the guy says that the fish just are not biting today and goes home without giving it a second thought. Or maybe he wonders why the fish didn't bite or what did he do wrong on that day? Wouldn't that be a terrible thought; not to know? Who's fault is it that he doesn't know?

The Green Book has been out long enough that the fisherman should be aware of how fish react to weather and water conditions and what we must do to catch him. Have you ever gone through all of the Spoonplugging websites on the internet and read what people have to say about Spoonpluggers and Spoonplugging? You will get a bit of everything out of it. Some say that they have tried it and it didn't work for them. Maybe they just tried it like you tried a bit of vinegar pie one time and didn't like it. Both took an equal amount of time on their decisions.

Some say that we are a cult. I have heard that on several occasions. They say that we are too stubborn to try other things that are out there. Mr. Perry said that a fish can be caught by most anyone, on most anything, and by most any method. In his study material, other methods of fishing are mentioned. Not just trolling Spoonplugs. A lot of people think that we are 100% trollers and this is all that we do.

Trolling is our teacher. It will tell us where to cast. It will tell us what to cast. It will tell us exactly how to move the lure of choice in the way to put the most fish in the boat for that particular situation.

Jump type lures are mentioned in Mr. Perry's study material and they are a part of a Spoonpluggers tools. I believe that a jig and pig is a jump type lure. A Texas rig and a Carolina rig is a jump type lure. Any crankbait that the other fisherman uses at whatever depth can be duplicated by the casting of a Spoonplug. Our sizes dictate which one that we choose according to the depth of the water that we need to check. I believe that Mr. Perry has discussed that the live bait can be very effective for the walleye either in cold water or when he is in the extreme depths. The minnow, worm, or leech can be stuck on a hook and held down on or near the bottom with a weight heavy enough to maintain bottom contact while using the outboard in reverse to hold the boat in the proper position. He has even mentioned that a large minnow dragged along a deep breakline can be effective for the big pike and musky.

Some time ago I remember reading that Mr. Perry had a fishing situation that called for the slower deeper speeds to be checked. For this he chose a heavy weight tied on the end of his line. A foot or so above the hook he tied a large hook and on this hook he stuck a large piece of plastic worm. It was drifted directly under the boat to cover the slower speeds at a deeper depth. It was the speed control that was needed at that particular time to put the fish in the boat. This rig is now known as a drop shot rig. Something that Mr. Perry had done and known about for centuries.

Let's back up and see what methods Mr. Perry has mentioned. Backtrolling (Lindy rigging) , jump type lures(jigs, jigging spoons, Carolina rigs, Texas rigs ect., crankbaits (our Spoonplugs) , and the use of live bait. A lot of fishing methods are talked about in his study material.

Here is the most important part of our conversation. In a few short years of studying and putting forth a lot of effort in learning how to become a good troller, a fisherman will know why, how ,when and where to put these other fishing methods to use. Others do not have this knowledge.

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

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”