



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held at the Kendallville Public Library September 17, 2007 with 21 members and guests present.

We welcomed a couple of newcomers; Jay Kessler and Cal Carnahan, both of Howe, Indiana. They had read about Spoonplugging in a local newspaper and decided to stop by for additional information.

Denny Coulardot reported that he has locked in the date for next year's Annual "Buck Sez" Network Outing for **AUGUST 7-8-9 2008** at the Forest Ridge Campground.

We inspected the library's selecting of books related to fishing and found nothing related to Spoonplugging, so we decided to purchase a Green Book and donate it to the library at the next meeting.

Denny also reported that he has caught enough northern for one year and is now focusing on bass. He reported catching 60 the week before the meeting so one could assume they are active!!

If you are still interested in annoying the northern it was reported that the speeds are dead slow. Soon the northern's action will slow to a considerable extent. BUT, as Denny proved, the bass are taking up the slack. Weather will be the big obstacle at this time of year as it starts to become more and more unstable until the fall turnover is complete (when the last leaf falls off the trees) However, so far, we have had a pretty good stretch of stable weather with very weak fronts. Water temperatures are dropping even though the weather has been relatively warm. The nights are getting longer and cooler and the water temperature are slipping from the mid 80's into the 60's. That temperature change is bound to have an

effect on the fish until they are able to adjust to the change. To top things off, the heavy rains of a few weeks ago killed off the algae blooms so things are clearing up quickly. This may mean carrying our depth controls deeper.

John drew several sections of the St Joe River on the blackboard and discussed the many fishing areas in the different sections. John explained the effects of flowing water and how it forms holes and bars, where hard areas are likely to be found and by keeping your eyes open, you can quickly eliminate the trolling water from the fishing water.

Fishing a river system can sometimes offset a portion of the effects of a cold front condition since the mixing effect of moving water acts to partially stabilize the water's temperature.

However, it should also be noted that in some severe weather changes, the water conditions in a river could be worse than a natural lake! Temperature isn't everything! At times, we've seen the water turn into chocolate milk with the run-off. At first glance you might think the water color is GOOD, but the fish may think differently as they need time to adapt to any drastic changes in their environment, be it temperature, turbidity, atmospheric pressure from the water table being higher than normal, etc.

John also discussed several "Never-Fail", easily found fishing areas in Lake Erie east of Monroe, Michigan.

**NEXT MEETING: October 15, 2007 at  
the Kendallville Public Library.**

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

## More Outing Pictures



Norene Luley with a BIG channel cat and very nice northern.

Below:  
Dan and Norene fished Maxinkukee during the outing and brought back some tasty walleyes and perch.



Chef Dan Luley and the cooking crew, Jeannie, Toby & Linda preparing to get the meal underway.



The Three Amigos ( Chef's Assistants, Denny & Ted (a/k/a The Three Stooges)

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# *Good Spoonplugging*

**By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor**



## MOTIVATION

Let's face it, Spoonplugging is hard work. It takes lots of study and lots of time on the water before there is any success. We have seen many get into it and before long, they are no where to be found. This is understood. Some think that what we do should be easy. It is not. Becoming a good Spoonplucker takes time and effort. It can be physically as well as mentally draining. There may be times in the beginning that you feel like throwing everything in the lake and taking up another sport. This is understood. Everyone goes through their ups and downs.

In a few short years, you begin to understand what is written in our study material and see that you are in control of your fishing. You know what you must do in order to catch a fish in many conditions and in many types of waters. You know these things because you have experienced them at one time or another.

You know that in order for you to make a catch, you must know all of the where's, when's, what's, whys and how's. With your experiences, you will come to know these things.

You know that you must be out there fishing at the right time and in the right manner in order to make a catch. This may mean that you must be on the water at the time that the fish become active. If the fish become active at 7 am and you are launching your boat at 8 am, you have missed the morning movement. If you leave at 3 pm and the fish move at 4 pm, then you have missed the evening movement also. You must be there fishing in the right place and in the right manner when the movement happens to get into the fish. If you only have three hours to fish then you are not going to find the fish jumping in the boat very often.

Take a look at the people who are having success. They have many things in common. The one thing that is the most important is that they are out there on the water a lot. They work very hard. They all follow Mr. Perry's Spoonplugging guidelines to the tee! If there are any shortcuts, those shortcuts were learned by sticking to those guidelines and were learned by personal experience.

If you are falling short on success, take a good look at your efforts.

*Good Spoonplugging*

*John Bales*

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**“The more I learn, the more I see there is to learn.” E. L. “Buck” Perry**

**BUCK SEZ:**

*What ‘triggers’ the activity and movements of the fish?”*

There is no question that it is a weather condition. But, we doubt if anyone knows the **exact** part that starts and stops the movements. It could be a combination of many things. We have our ideas but we have no definite **FACTS**. We feel **LIGHT** plays a major role, and Buck can quite often predict when a movement is about to begin, or when one is in progress, by his observations of the light present. He uses his **LIGHT** observations as his guide to the activity and movements of the fish—for he says: “If my light observations give me the answers, that’s good enough for me.”

One thing we should all agree on is the movements of the fish are not “triggered” or controlled by their hunger. We would have a hard time figuring out why all the fish in the lake become hungry at the same time. And, it would not explain the activity and movement without feeding. A game fish can be made to “strike”—this is his nature. We never expect to catch our fish feeding, but we’re happy when this occurs.

You may want to know if the moon has any effect on the fish? We have not been able to find any relationship between movements and the phase of the moon. If there were any, we are quite sure local weather and water conditions would completely wreck it.

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*“Are fish of all sizes and age groups bunched up together down in the deep water?”*

The study material said the smaller fish were not compatible with the larger fish. We classify the smaller fish into a group, called “yearlings.” These are normally from one to three years old. Some may be older, but where growth is good, you can view the smaller fish group as being of this age. A better way probably to view the smaller fish would be to say, until they reach about 2-2 1/2 pounds, they are not compatible with the larger fish. When the larger fish get on the move, the yearlings scoot to the safety of the shallows.

You will find, in some instances, where a school of bigger fish are all about the same size. At other times, they will come in several different sizes. The age, fertility, and reproduction of a body of water would have a bearing on the sizes in any particular school.

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*“Are there fishing situations where the fish, when they move towards shallower water, do not move toward or along structure such as bars, but will move shallower by going ‘vertically’ toward the surface?”*

This Spoonplugging (structure fishing) study is primarily concerned with the larger species of game fish (bass, walleye, northern pike, muskies, stripers, etc.). However, there are certain water situations and certain species of fish where part of a movement may be, at times, directly toward the surface. The fish may be “drawn” toward the surface due to some attraction or “noise.” However, all the movements would be related to structure or some bottom feature; **AND**, the upward movement (toward the surface) will occur only **AFTER** the fish become active and moving. In a later study we will discuss fishing situations where a part of a migration may be vertical. But to **CONSISTENTLY** put fish on our stringer, “structure” (features of the bottom the fish use) is still our guide to where most of the **CATCHABLE** fish may be found.

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