



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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**FOUNDED 1991**

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The last meeting was held August 20, 2007 at the Kendallville Public Library with 17 members present. We welcomed Scott Fredrickson of Albion to his first meeting.

The main topic of discussion was the annual "Buck Sez" Outing held the previous week:

It was generally agreed that this, the 12th annual Indiana Outing was the best ever with 64 people in attendance.

Fishing was good this year with lots of northerns being caught on Wawasee along with some walleyes and a jumbo perch caught by Dan & Norene Luley from Lake Maxinkuckee as well as northerns and bass from several other lakes. 4 boats on Wawasee caught 91 northerns on Friday. Last year the hot lake was Dewert Lake. This year it was Lake Wawasee. The temperature and humidity were obstacles to the comfort of campers, but a good time was had by all.

56 were on hand for the Saturday night fish fry.

A special thanks goes to Dave Gould in the cooking department. He prepared stew, for the Friday night feeding as well as several other dishes. He did such a good job that he was nominated for head chef for next year's Outing!! Charlie's Chili was the Thursday night treat, and the Saturday night fish fry was topped off with Valpo-Velvet gourmet ice cream courtesy of the Brown Brothers.

Lou Kopiaz traveled all the way from cornfields of Nebraska to attend the outing. Lou has been Spoonplugging for many years, but felt he needed to connect with some other Spoonpluggers and compare

notes.

Also attending were representatives from Michigan, Ohio Kentucky and Illinois.

Each night several groups assembled and discussed the day's fishing situations as well as numerous other Spoonplugging topics providing an outstanding educational experience for the attendees.

The 2008 annual "Buck Sez" Network Outing has been scheduled for August 7, 8, & 9, 2008.

John Bales discussed the recent warm weather and the tendency for such weather to initiate algae blooms in many of the area lakes. As the daylight hours get shorter and weather (and water) begin to cool, the algae blooms will diminish and the water will clear to a considerable extent. So now is the time to "make hay" as the fishing will get a bit tougher until fall turnover takes place.

John and Denny also described their technique for trolling the inside turns on weed lines. When the fish become active, they may move to these inside turns and these "cups" can be very difficult areas to keep lures in the proper position without some practice.

Denny also stressed the importance of boat control and suggested that the smaller boats (under 16ft.) are much more maneuverable than the larger boats. As we fish deeper and deeper, precision become much more important and the larger the boat, the more difficult it become to be accurate.

**NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2007 at  
the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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



Mike Zaborney gives a lesson on cleaning northern pike



Charlie Krauss with a Webster Lake muskie and a nice largemouth bass



Mike Beck with nice northern



Mike's dad with even nicer northern!



Mike's nephew, Alex Baker with the nicest Wawasee northern



Bobby Meredith with a nice muskie!



Johnny Bales just completed the refurbishing of grandpa Chuck Gladieux's boat. He can be real proud of the all the hard work he put into this boat. If Chuck is looking down on the finished product, you can be sure he is pleased that his boat is still out there on the same water he spent so much time enjoying. Great job, Johnny.

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



# *Good Spoonplugging*

**By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor**



Mr. Perry gave us a lot to study and learn with his Spoonplugging method. This gives us a special opportunity to become very good fishermen. Others do not have this fishing information and most do not want it. They do not want to know the truth about fishing! Mr. Perry gave us the truth about fishing and tells us what we must do to have success. His writings are simple and easily understood. Every subject that is of any importance is explained in detail. How the fish react to different conditions and what we must do to catch him.

Of all the conditions that we and the fish face, the most interesting to observe is our weather conditions. The fish are totally controlled by the weather and water conditions at the time that we are on the water. We must also observe the weather before hand. When was the last cold front? How many days has it been since the last front came through? How severe was the front? Did it linger or blow through quickly?

The most interesting observations and the best learning will come on the days that we are on the water. We are able to observe the conditions as we constantly check out our depths and speeds as well as take note of how it is effecting the movements of the fish.

We do not just go out and practice running lures at different depths and speeds and see how many fish we can catch. We are observing the weather as we are going about our fishing. We are learning how the fish react to our local weather conditions at the time that we are on the water.

Mr. Perry said that it is a light condition that triggers the movements of the fish. More times than not, these light conditions can be observed by the fisherman and then related to the movements of the fish for that particular day. The conditions that we look for may be in the form of a thicker cloud cover, a hazy high cirrus formation, or when the wind picks up or lays down. All of these may cause a changing light condition and the fish may become active for a period of time. There are two things that are important here. With these observations, we gain valuable knowledge that we can use every time that we go fishing. The other is that we learn to appreciate Mr. Perry's efforts in his studies and passing it on to whoever will listen.

For a long time now, Ted Walter has done an outstanding job in putting together our newsletter. I hope that you have noticed that there is always a quote by Mr. Perry in each printing. " The more I learn, the more I see there is to learn".

*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:**

*“My lake has a bottom completely covered with muck, moss or short grass. I can’t work my lures on the bottom. What do you suggest?”*

As we stated earlier, if you **can’t** work the bottom, then you have to **work as close as you can**. This may present problems, but we can regulate our lure size and line length (on cast or troll) so that the lure “barely” skips the debris. If our gear is correct, most of the muck and grass can be “jerked” free, but the moss may be another story.

Many times we have been faced with a lake bottom such as yours. We have found we can regulate depth on the troll by lure size and line length. On the cast, we may have to go to a weedless type lure, but even here the muck and moss can foul it.

We normally work a lake of this nature first by trolling as close to the debris as possible so as to not be **continually** fouled. But all the time we’re looking for a clean spot or a hard spot. Most every lake of this nature will have some clean or hard spots. They may be few and far between, but they will exist. Our lures must tell us what type of bottom exists, or we would never find the areas we are looking for. We must find the more workable bottoms, for **that will be where the fish are**. Fish do not like to be on muck or soft bottoms, if the clean spot (break) is available. All of this means we get fouled quite a lot. But most of them can be quickly cleaned by a hard jerk or jerks, with the stiff rod and non-stretch line—with no time lost. The clean or hard bottom presents no problem on the cast.

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*“Some place back in the study you said to look for the deep water ‘first’, and then look for the structure in relationship to this deep water. Then in this study you tell us to check the ‘shallows first’, before going deeper. This seems to be a contradiction.”*

I believe if you go back and restudy what we said previously (under Structure, Breaks and Break-lines) you will find we were talking about **interpreting** a fishing situation, or **when studying a contour map**. The **first thing you do is locate the deep water**; then look for any structure in the area. It would be rather a waste of time to spend time looking for good structure on a contour map, and then find out there was no deep water in the area.

In this study of Presentation, we are talking about an entirely different thing. We’re talking about what area do we **“fish”** first.

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