



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held January 21, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library with 20 members and guests present. New to the group was Mike Luley, Dan's brother, from Craigville, Indiana and Todd Farver from LaGrange. Andrew Jagger, Tony's son was also added to our roster.

A small amount of fishing was reported since the last meeting....both ice and open water. Since the ice can't seem to make up its mind whether to go or stay, both have been available in January. Dave Gould and Paul Peterson reported fishing open water from the bank recently. They were getting some nice crappie fishing in when the shallows where they were fishing were invaded by muskies looking for an easy meal. The muskie began hitting the crappies as they were being reeled in. Dave hooked a 36 incher but was unable to land it because the crappie gear gave out.

A few reports of ice fishing were given, but nothing exciting. Many lakes remain open in the deeper water areas so caution is the word when venturing out. Denny brought in a tube of wheel bearing grease for one of the members. It was a tube of LubriMatic Boat Trailer Wheel Bearing Grease. Denny highly recommends this brand of grease. He's not had a wheel bearing give out since he began using it. Background info on the stuff claims it will hold up even under salt water conditions. I would put a great deal of trust on this recommendation since few boat trailer axles in America get dipped in a lake more than Denny's.

John Bales talked on the subject of procedures when casting to a school of bass. Most people don't want

to offend a fishing partner by casting into the spot where he or she just made a catch. Many consider this bad form. However, if you have read Mr. Perry's book, you will know that keeping a school of fish in a frenzy increases your odds of catching the largest number of fish from that school. And the best way to keep a school of fish aroused is by having as many lures coming through that school as fast as possible. A hyper-activity period such as this will only last a few minutes and time is of the essence. So, if you are easily offended by a partner throwing in on top of you as you are catching fish, you may not want to fish with an experienced Spoonplugger because they will undoubtedly be casting to the spot where you caught a fish within seconds....and will expect you to do the same thing if THEY catch a fish. Acting as a team will put a lot more fish in the boat.

John also spoke of the importance of reading....no...STUDYING the Green Book. John still reads it on almost a daily basis. He says many things stated in the book really turn on a light bulb once you've experienced it on the water. Many things in the book are not remembered or don't appear meaningful until an on-the-water experience brings about a whole new revelation. John explained:

"Everything is in there. Sometimes you have to read the same thing 10 times before you finally get it"

Be sure to watch John & Mark Zona on Worlds Greatest Fishing Show February 2nd and 10th

NEXT MEETING: February 18, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

After a few years of Spoonplugging most of us are very happy with the results we have achieved. We may be able to make a catch most of the times we choose to go fishing. We have found a few productive lakes that have acceptable water color and have mapped them well enough to satisfy ourselves that we can repeat the process anywhere. We have become first-rate at our weather predictions and we can almost calculate when the next movement will occur. We may become so satisfied with our progress as Spoonpluggers that we might believe we have learned it all.

This can be a dangerous time for a Spoonplugger because if we believe we have learned it all, or even almost all, our fishing successes will come to a standstill and may even suffer a setback. It is at this stage that we may turn to the fishing “gadgets” found in those thick catalogs we all receive every December or January! Soon we may wonder why we are not making the catches we were a year or two ago. We may blame the weather or water conditions. We may blame tournament fishermen or recreational boaters for our lack of success. If you have already fallen into this trap, it is not too late for recovery. There is solution to this problem that will keep you challenged for many, many years.
DEEPER WATER.

Most Spoonpluggers, after having attained some degree of success in their shallow water fishing, will move on to the deeper water. Chances are good that they will immediately notice their successes are not as good. The natural instinct is to fish where the fish seem to be more active and while the fish may not be monsters, we seem to make a catch on a very consistent basis. And so many concentrate their efforts on fishing the shallower water and weedlines where successes seem to be better and only fish the deeper water on a limited basis. To move from being a fair Spoonplugger to a **good** Spoonplugger, we must gain experience in fishing the deep water.

I have had the great good fortune to fish with some of the best Spoonpluggers in the country and I have noticed that **all** are skilled in deep water fishing. The deep water fishing requires a great degree of dedication to become proficient. Mr. Perry tells us that everything gets harder as we go deeper. Presentation must be right on the money in order to get a fish to take. Interpretation must be better. Line sights must be more accurate. Fish may not seem as active, but with proper presentation of lures they can be made to take. Fishing deep water can be challenging but once you begin catching fish on a consistent basis you will be on your way to becoming a **good** Spoonplugger.

Here are several reasons to take your fishing to this next level:

- 1) Lakes are becoming clearer so fish may be less likely to be shallow.
- 2) The larger fish spend most of their time in deeper water
- 3) Almost no other fishermen will be in your way.
- 4) The larger fish spend most of their time in deeper water
- 5) Your skill in interpretation of structure will be much more fulfilling.
- 6) And finally: The larger spend most of their time in deeper water.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Markers & Shoreline Sightings

We can never say enough about markers and shoreline sightings. These are two tools that keep us from being lost on the water. Mr. Perry states that the shoreline does two things: First, it holds the water in the lake and second, it enables us to get shoreline sightings. Since we cannot see what is under the water, we must use something for a reference point when doing any kind of fishing. None of us are good enough in our interpretation of a fishing situation without the use of markers or shoreline sightings to be able to make a correct trolling pass or the right cast without some kind of reference point. If you are contour trolling a nine foot breakline around a bar and all of a sudden there is a 90 degree turn to the left and you do not throw a marker, the minute you turn your head or take your eyes off of the bubbles in the water where the boat was turned you are lost! The marker that should have been within your reach should have been thrown and now you know exactly where this feature is and you are not lost. This is the difference between a fisherman that will learn from his efforts and one that will be a half-@#S%^ fisherman until he learns to properly use the tools.

Let's say that instead of just noticing that the breakline made a turn, we actually hit a fish when our lure ran up onto this finger. The fisherman who did not throw a marker lands the fish and now has no idea of where to make another trolling pass or where to anchor the boat and go to the cast. The only thing that he can do is go back and try to make that pass using the depth meter to keep the lure in position. What chance do you think that exact pass can be made again without the use of a marker or a shoreline sighting? The fisherman who did throw the marker as soon as the fish took knows where to make the next trolling pass and also knows about where to put the boat and go to the cast. This one move in throwing a marker can benefit you in many ways. It will get you into many schools of big fish that the other fellow will miss. Once the action is over, the marker that is there will allow you to look around to the shoreline and get good shoreline sightings for future trips. Good enough sightings can be written down so that a marker may never have to be thrown again.

Many fishermen complain that they have never been into a school of big bass, yet you do not ever see a marker within reach of many.

We do not want to be lost on the water. Markers and shoreline sightings will keep you from ever being lost.

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:

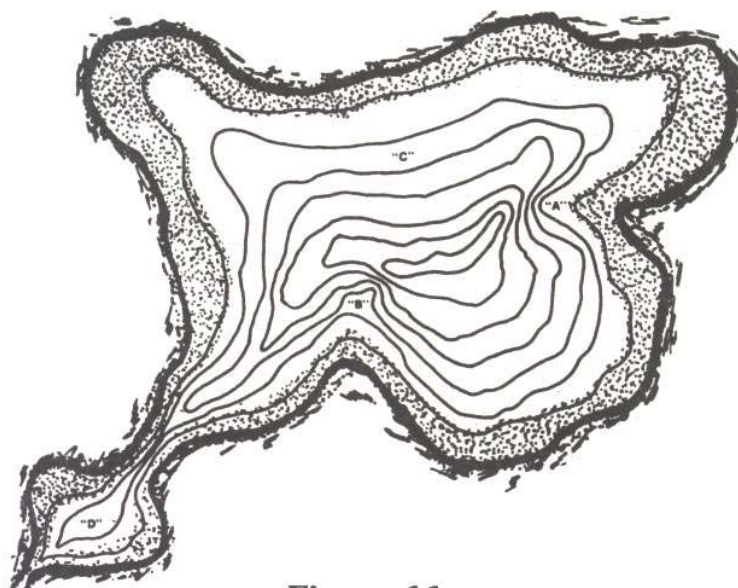


Figure 11

Figure 11 is a top view of a **natural** lake, and it contains a variety of fish—bass, walleye, northern pike, etc. When viewing the migration of fish from a **SEASONAL** point of view, it is somewhat different from that found in reservoirs. This does not imply the habits and instincts of fish are different, but in most natural lakes the **STRUCTURES USED DO NOT CHANGE, BUT WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE SEASON**. However, if by chance your natural lake has the same features as discussed in the reservoir—short structure—steep shorelines, etc., then the same principle would apply. Those natural lakes with a stream flowing through, such as a lake chain and some wider sections of streams at times called lakes, often have features as found in reservoirs.

Figure 11 shows the contour and structure available in a natural lake. Added to this is a shallow channel or slough leading off to a small expanse of water. This could be a small shallow lake connected to the main lake by a narrow channel. The deepest water in the lake is a large section in the center of the larger body of water. This would be the home of the fish (winter or summer). In studying the structure available, there are two main structures in the form of a bar (A & B). The section marked “C” has no well-defined structure, breakline, nor breaks. It is a flat, sloping bottom. The **breaklines** that occur on structures A and B are the only “steep” bottoms available. Thus they would be the **shortest** route to shallower water for limited or scattered migrations—just like the steeper sections of a reservoir. These would give the fish an immediate drop-back or access to the **deepest** water. So, in early season, and pre-spawn season, these steeper sections of the structure would be used.

As the pre-spawn season approaches, it is highly probable that in certain weather and water conditions, some fish may migrate for short periods into the feeder channel leading to the backwaters of the slough or small shallow lake. The possibility of this would increase as the spawning season approaches.

In the overall picture, the two main structures (A & B) would be considered as the main migration routes for both cold and warm seasons. In the colder pre-spawn period, the deeper breaks and breaklines would receive the **SHORT, SCATTERED, UNPREDICTABLE** migrations. As the season progresses, the movements should become better and better and be more to the shallow portions of the structures. During the spawning season, the most productive shallow places in the lake should be in the near shallows of those two main structures. If the lake has a slough or a small channel leading off into a bay, or a small section such as “D”, then this too should be checked. After the spawning season, the same main structures (A & B) would receive the migration as per weather and water conditions that exist.

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