



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 7

#165

FOUNDED 1991

July 2008

PRESIDENT/FOUNDER: Denny Coulardot
(260) 691-3118

SECRETARY: Ted Walter
(260) 495-5042

EDUCATION DIRECTOR: John Bales
(260) 854-3921

The last meeting was held June 16, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library with 23 members and guests present.

Denny Coulardot showed a Don Dickson tape on basic Spoonplugging guidelines for members who had not previously seen it.

Denny also gave an overview of the recent Leoni Spoonpluggers Outing in Jackson, Michigan attended by several members. John, T.J. as well as Mike Zaborny and several other of their members put in a lot of hard work to make the outing one of the best. They have a nearly perfect set up for the outing with camping in John & T.J.'s back yard which keeps expenses to a minimum. John and T.J. also have what amounts to a commercial kitchen set up in a building that can easily hold all attendees and feed them in record time. They cook breakfast and supper each day for everyone. The signal to get up for breakfast is one you won't soon forget! There are plenty of lakes within easy driving distance from John's place and John provides maps for all of them. A fish fry and raffle topped things off on Saturday night. If you've never attended this outing, you should plan to put it on your "A" list for next year. Mike Zaborny had a kidney removed the Monday following the outing. I understand he is doing well following the surgery and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Denny reported that the northerns are now fully engaged. He reported 182 so far this year. Denny and Howard LaLone caught 43 in one day alone the previous week. Mike Price reported 109 so far, and several others reported good catches as well.

John Bales relayed the following story:

He recently purchased a different boat. It was a used boat that needed a lot of TLC and reworking to turn it into the Spoonplugging rig John desired.

During the process, John borrowed a power buffer to shine the boat up a bit. As he was buffing in the well in front of the transom, his buffer picked up two loose cables John had previously disconnected.

The buffer used the two cables to immediately lash both of John's hands to the buffer making it impossible for him to turn the thing off, thereby keeping maximum tension on the "handcuffs". Finally, after what seemed like a 10 minutes, John was able to kick the power cord plug hard enough to dislodge it from the outlet and releasing the tension enough for him to get a hand free. A real Kodak moment.

So you can now expect to see a little yellow warning label on all new buffers.....

If we could have only gotten that on video, we could have sold it for a substantial sum to America's Funniest Home Videos or at least YouTube!

The next Network Outing will be the Muskegon Lake Outing at Fisherman's Landing in Muskegon, Michigan, July 9-13, 2008 sponsored by the Lunker Hunters. Contact Chase Klinesteker (616) 949-8665 or email Ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Our next meeting will be primarily dedicated to the planning of our annual outing August 7, 8, & 9, 2008. Please plan to attend.

NEXT MEETING: July 21st, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library at 6:30. P.M.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

NORTHERN INDIANA
SPOONPLUGGERS

ALL SPOONPLUGGERS INVITED
ANNUAL "BUCK SEZ" OUTING
AUGUST 7, 8, & 9th, 2008

*

BASE CAMP WILL BE LOCATED AT:
FOREST RIDGE CAMP GROUND
TENT/RV (260) 327-3551 SWIMMING POOL
WATER & ELEC. (MENTION NO. IND.
SPOONPLUGGERS)

-or-

LEE'S INN SUPER 8 MOTEL BUDGET INN
235 FRONTAGE ROAD COLUMBIA CITY (260)248-4644
COLUMBIA CITY, IN 1-800-800-8000
(260)244-5300

MOTELS ARE LOCATED ON US30 IN COLUMBIA CITY
ABOUT 5 MILES FROM THE
CAMPGROUND AND WITHIN 15 MILES OF MOST
LAKES

*

AREA LAKES INCLUDE: *WEBSTER,
TIPPECANOE, WAWASEE, BARBEE CHAIN, AND MORE.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
DENNY COULARDOT JOHN BALES
(260) 691-3118 (260) 854-3921

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



We are very lucky to have had Buck Perry as our teacher. Without his guidelines, we would not know the when, where, what, why, and how to catch a fish. The average fisherman does not think of depth and speed as his controls in fishing. It is more like color and size and what is being shown on the television that sells and gets used. Most do not want to know the truth about fishing. As much as we would like it to be, Spoonplugging knowledge will never be fully accepted by most fishermen.

I occasionally fish with someone who is not a Spoonplugger. For this reason, I get to listen to what they think makes a fish tick and what they think that they need to do to put a fish in the boat. They just don't know, period.

This is why we are so lucky to have some guidelines. Without them, we would not understand what makes a fish tick and what we must do to put him in the boat. You and I know how water color effects the movements of the fish. The average Joe does not. You and I know how each species of fish may react to the passing of a cold front, and which ones recuperate faster than the other. The average Joe does not. You and I know how to present lures on the troll, both in the shallows, the in-between and in the deeper waters. The average Joe does not. By trolling, we eliminate the unproductive waters and arrive at the fish in the shortest amount of time. Our trolling will tell us when to cast, where to cast, what to cast, why to cast and how to cast. The average Joe does not have this in his arsenal. Mr. Perry said that our trolling is our teacher. This is what we have over all the other fishing groups. The knowledge that we learn by trolling cannot be learned by casting alone.

Mr. Perry has taught us to observe the weather conditions not only before we fish but while on the water. Our observations before and during our fishing teaches us how the fish react to these changing conditions of weather. Most of the time we already have an idea as to what our chances are to catch a fish for the day that we go fishing. The others may just hope the fish are biting and don't know why they are not jumping in the boat.

Do you see what the advantages are in being a Spoonplugger? Could you imagine how it would be if we did not have this knowledge? How would you be doing your fishing? What lures? What methods? What guidelines would you be using? How would it feel to not fully understand what you are doing and not know all of the where's, why's, how's and not know when? Oh brother! We are the lucky ones.

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.

* * * * *

“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”