



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held at the Kendallville Public Library with 19 members and guests present. Glen Nichodemus chaperoned his son, Shawn to the meeting.

President Denny Coulardot reported that Skinner Lake had been sprayed for weeds that day (May 19, 2008) and that Webster was on the schedule to be sprayed on the 29th. Sylvan has either been sprayed already or is on the list also. It seems that most lakes to be sprayed are scheduled right during the heart of the spawning season for one species of fish or another. The lake associations ought to take spawning seasons into account when contracting for weed control, but I would guess the fisherpersons are in the minority in the decision making process. Can the DNR do anything to postpone the timing of the spray till spawning is complete? Seems as if a permit and/or licensing/training of the weed control companies might be in order....or perhaps these safeguards already exist?? At any rate, we have all seen the negative side of spraying operations, including some fairly hefty fish kills in the past so obviously the safeguards are not a complete success.

Denny also announced the new National Spoonplugger website: <http://www.nsoa.info>. This is a secure site and members should already have received instructions for using the new website as well as a logon password. The website has an archive of past newsletter and an article search can be performed if you have a specific topic you'd like to research. In the future, the National Newsletter will be received online which will eliminate a tremendous amount of time, labor and money presently used in preparing

and mailing the newsletter. Our own club may have to resort to this method of newsletter distribution at some point in time. I have had the great good fortune in the past to have access to printers and copiers at no charge, however, with retirement approaching in the next year or two, those privileges will soon disappear. Something to think about.

The consensus is that fishing has been very tough of late. Cold front, cold front, cold front. In the last month we have prayed for a "day 3". Day 2's are more common with several instances of a cold front per day!! Water temps are still in the low 60's....exactly the same as reported in the April meeting!

OK, here's one for the books: John and Denny were fishing recently when John caught a bass. As he began to reel the fish in, Denny commented that he thought he was caught in John's line. When the fish was hauled to the boat, the fish had both John and Denny's Spoonplugs in its mouth. Now that is one greedy bass! Gives a whole new meaning to the word "double". I'm not sure how you count that. Credit each with a half? Good thing the Fish Fuzz wasn't around. There's probably something illegal about catching fish on two separate lures. Don't forget the Leoni Outing June 11-15, 2008 in Jackson, Michigan. For details, contact John Zaborny (517) 414-3596 or email him at: jzaborny@sbcglobal.net

Next Meeting: June 16, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

BUCK SEZ

SPOONPLUGGER'S BASIC GUIDELINE

The “home” of the fish (where he spends the greater part of his time—a sanctuary from a changing or hostile environment) is somewhere in the deep, or deepest, water in the area being fished. When in the sanctuary depths, the fish are normally so dormant, and/or so deep, they are almost impossible to locate or catch. As fishermen we are saved due to the fact the fish do not stay so dormant, or so deep, all the time. Once or twice on an average fishing day they will become active and may move toward shallower water. We are saved again, because when the fish become active and move toward shallower water, they do not go in just any direction. The route they take has bottom features (structure, breaks and breaklines) that show them the way. As the fish move along a bottom feature (structure situation) they will pause or stop at things (breaks and breaklines) on the bottom. How far they go (along a migration route toward the shallows) and how long they stay (at a “break” or “breakline” before turning back to deep water) is dependant upon (controlled by) the weather and water conditions at that particular time.

If you and I desire to consistently catch fish whenever or wherever we go fishing, we must control the depth and speed of our lures (or bait) on, and/or around the bottom features the fish are using in their movements and migrations.

WHAT IS INVOLVED HERE

- 1. THE MOVEMENT OF THE FISH**
- 2. LAKE FEATURES—STRUCTURE, BREAKS, BREAKLINES**
- 3. WEATHER AND WATER CONDITIONS**
- 4. LAKE TYPES**
- 5. MAPPING AND INTERPRETATION**
- 6. CONTROLS AND TOOLS**
- 7. PRESENTATION OF LURES**
- 8. MENTAL ATTITUDE**

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Being a Spoonplugger is a very good feeling. Our teacher, Mr. Perry gave us many guidelines for us to use on and off the water. For most of the time that we are on the water, the fish are not biting. They are either in the shallows, the deep, or somewhere in-between and they are either active or inactive. Mr. Perry says that fish do not move constantly or consistently. Our guidelines say that once or twice a day (on a normal fishing day) the fish may become active and move. The weather and water conditions control these movements and migrations of how shallow and how long they move. So what do you and I do while waiting for this to happen?

First of all we must plan to be on the water when one of these movements happen. This does not mean that we get on the water at ten o'clock and leave at two in the afternoon. What if the movement takes place at 8 am and again at 5 pm? It doesn't take much to see that the fish and us aren't going to see each other on that particular day. So it is important that we be on the water when this movement occurs. I try to be on the water before the first one occurs. At least I know that I am ahead of it and have something to look forward to.

We want to make contact with the fish when it does happen. How can you and I make sure this happens. What is the one thing that we can do to put this in our favor? We must start out as shallow as possible and end up fishing as deep as the features go or however deep we can reach with confidence that we are doing it right. If we go through this process and do not make contact with the fish, we must exercise patience and repeat the process. We can either go to another structure situation or repeat the process where we have just fished.

At times, we may want to check out the slower speeds and do some casting with some jump type lures. What does this accomplish by doing this? We are checking out our different depths and the slower speeds to see if this is what they want and at the same time, we are allowing time for the fish to move.

So many times, it is the person that has the patience to stick with the guidelines that will end up making a catch. This person may not be a better fisherman but has the mental toughness to stick with it. Waiting for the fish can be trying but it is well worth the wait.

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 working tall weeds, the different size lure should be worked alongside these weeds, and just as close to them as possible.

The contour of the weedline is not being followed properly if the lure is continually fouled—this indicates the lure is too close. Neither is the contour being followed properly if the lure is never fouled—this indicates the lure is too far out. After a few passes, especially if a marker is used, the route to take should be known.;

If any fish movement has extended back into the weeds, this does not mean all the fish are in the weeds—some will still be along the outer edge. Quite often fish move up to the weedline, but do not penetrate or go back into the weeds.

* * * * *

A mistake too often made by fishermen is to put too much faith in one particular size lure that can work only one section of water. At times, this particular size may be the greatest thing ever developed—but, it could have been used earlier or later, and as far as catching fish is concerned, was a piece of junk.

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After working all sections of the shallows and as deep as possible on the structure, and no fish are found, the question arises—“What should be done now?”

- * If the area just fished is known to be productive, exercise patience for the fish to move, with efforts concentrated as deep on the migration route as possible. Preferably at the spot where fish first make contact with the structure (contact point).
- * If there is some doubt the water at this particular structure has been “strained” thoroughly—repeat all steps.
- * If there is any question or doubt concerning the direction of nature of this structure, work it until its exact nature is known.
- * Check other shorelines for additional structures. As many of these as possible should be known. In looking for structures and working them, you not only learn the lake, but the experience gained is invaluable.
- * When additional hot-spots and structures are known, these should be checked. Some particular condition could delay migration in one particular area, but not in another.
- * Run shallows for stragglers, periodically returning to check structures for migration.

However, a word of caution—don’t go tearing up and down the lake trying to find fish at the expense of thoroughness. Work each structure thoroughly before leaving it.

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When Trolling in deep water, some fishermen experience difficulty in returning to the same spot where a fish has been caught. This difficulty can be overcome by using markers and shoreline sightings.

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The fisherman who learns SPOONPLUGGING will always expect to catch his limit of fish and anything less will be understood. The only things that should defeat a SPOONPLUGGER is the extreme weather conditions such as a cold front, or the time spent on the waters was not long enough to include a migration, or to find the good areas.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”