



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 3

#161

FOUNDED 1991

March 2008

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

SECRETARY: Ted Walter
(260) 495-5042

EDUCATION DIRECTOR: John Bales
(260) 854-3921

The February meeting was held February 18, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library with 19 members and guests present. We welcomed 4 new prospective members: Ron Epert of Wawaka, Kevin Hodge, Mike Bielski, and Doug Atz, all of Kendallville stopped by for the meeting to see what Spoonplugging is all about.

Several members reported that there is plenty of ice with 8-9 inches on most area lakes and that the bluegills and crappies are cooperating.

Denny reported that Bobby Meredith came through his back surgery (nearly 7 hours) in good shape. He will have to wear a halo for at least 3 months. By that time the northerns will be starting to fire up for the summer!

John Bales reported that he, Terry O'Malley and Jeri Perry will be going to Greenville, South Carolina on February 21, 2008 to attend the induction of Buck Perry into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame. (See ESPN press release on next page) I have talked to John since the event happened and he was very glad to have attended and came away with some nice memories of the occasion. I'm sure John will give us updates on the event at the next meeting.

John discussed INTERPRETATION. Interpretation is the one thing that any Spoonplugger can always get better at. John stressed the importance of learning to run the first three sizes on Spoonplugs prior to attempting go deeper. Fishing deeper is a goal to reach and several of our club members have been especially successful at fishing in the greater depths. However, sometime we tend to forget that many of our members may not be ready to fish at such depths

successfully. It can take many hours on the water to become proficient at the PROPER presentation of just the first 3 sizes of Spoonplugs.

Terry O'Malley reminded us of this in the last issue of *The National Spoonplugger* and I think it is worth repeating:

Buck Sez... (On page 266 of the Green Book): "*To be effective, it is very important that you know structure, can read deep water, weather and know where the fish will be. You can't just go out there in deep water and wander around like some lost dog. Deep water means "exactness" in both interpretation and presentation.!*"

Sometimes our members with 10, 15, 20, 30 years experience forget how long it took to be successful at fishing deeper water! The newer members will have the advantage of tapping into that experience. The 30-year class had to figure a lot of things out on their own!!

The Illinois Spoonpluggers will host the 6th Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at the Elk Grove Public Library in Elk Grove, Illinois. The seminar will run from 9:00 AM-4:45 PM. The cost will be \$20 per person, and will include coffee, rolls, lunch, and handout materials. Contact Jim Duplex (630) 579-9815

jjd82@juno.com

Several of our members will be attending. If you are interested contact John Bales to possibly coordinate car pooling.

NEXT MEETING: March 17, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — Four legendary figures of bass fishing who have contributed greatly to the sport through education, angling achievements, innovations and communications will join 32 previously inducted men and women into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame, Feb. 21.

The class of 2008 includes Charlie Campbell and Virgil Ward both of Missouri, Nick Crème of Texas and Buck Perry of North Carolina, as the seventh group of inductees. Crème, Perry and Ward will be inducted posthumously.

Induction ceremonies Thursday, Feb. 21 will take place at the Hyatt Hotel in Greenville, S.C., the evening before the start of the 40th Bassmaster Classic's three days of championship fishing on Lake Hartwell. The reception will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the induction banquet and ceremony in the main ballroom at 7 p.m.

Meet the honorees

Charlie Campbell

As a Missouri educator and celebrated coach for over 15 years, Campbell would spend after-school hours and summers guiding nearby lakes. Multi-dimensional he later owned a marine dealership, developed the "Charlie Campbell CC Spinner Bait," and was instrumental in the design of the Bass Tracker boat for Bass Pro Shops. He won a B.A.S.S. Federation National Championship, fished five Classics and won a total of 67 tournament trail events. Among his many honors he's been inducted into two other halls of fame.

Nick Crème

In 1949, Crème created the first rubber worms on his kitchen stove which made a huge impact as the invention revolutionized bass fishing with artificial lures in the 1950s and '60s.

When professional anglers began winning early B.A.S.S. tournaments on Crème Scoundrels and Shimmy Gals, the founder and owner of Crème Lures saw his business take off. Crème became one of the first tackle companies to sponsor a pro angler when, in 1967, Nick offered John Powell of Alabama an \$18,000 contract.

Buck Perry

Perry is widely acclaimed as the "father of structure fishing," as he opened up America's lakes and rivers to a different style of fishing than anyone had ever enjoyed. Before sonar, Perry was using his Spoonplugs and trolling tactics to catch deep water and offshore bass that others did not even know existed. Perry spent his life educating others about bass migrations, habitat and deep water methods. Even though he passed away in 2005, his Spoonplugging school is still a serious educational institution for anglers.

Virgil Ward

Ward had one of the most popular TV showcases of bass fishing techniques for 27 years with his very successful Virgil Ward's Championship Fishing Show. Syndicated nationally for 20 years, Ward's show in 1985 was rated No. 1 overall. Millions of fishing fans followed his weekly shows on 253 radio stations and his advice in 450 newspapers. In 1955 Virgil and his son Bill, started the Bass Buster Lure Company, designed the feather jig and patented the fiber weed guard still used today by jig manufacturers.

"This group of four along with the other men and women inducted before them are among the true legends and innovators of the great sport of bass fishing," said BFHoF president Sammy Lee. "Their contributions and efforts have rippled through the waters of time and we applaud their inclusion into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame."

Among the currently enshrined Hall of Fame members are Ray Scott, Johnny Morris, Bill Dance, Cotton Cordell, Denny Brauer, Stan Fagerstrom, Roland Martin, Bob Cobb, Guido Hibdon, Jimmy and Chris Houston.

Tickets to the banquet are available through Feb. 15th by calling 1-888-690-BASS (2277) or through the Hall's web site at www.bassfishinghof.com.

The evening will also include the introduction of the four newest members to the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Board of Directors. They include Kathy Magers and Dick Hart of Texas, Gene Ellison of Massachusetts and Hobson Bryan Jr. of Alabama who were named to three-year terms beginning January 1 of this year. The board is comprised of 15 members from within the fishing industry.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Let me list a few lakes where great catches of largemouth bass have been made sometime in the past. Randall Lake, Hess Lake, Mona Lake, High Lake, Big Lake, Big Turkey Lake, Palmer Lake, Big Barbee, Little Barbee, Fox Chain of Lakes, Irish Lake, Webster Lake, Lake of the Woods, and a whole lot more could be listed. Of course, the zebra mussels have changed the water color of many of these lakes since. My point is that many of the best lakes that produced the biggest stringers of big bass had the best water color. This is one of our most important guidelines that we must still put high up on the list if we want to continue to put fish in the boat on a consistent basis.

Even though most of these lakes are now clear, some still have good water color. It is the most important observation that you will make in your fishing success. For the beginning Spoonplugger, it is even more important that he search out the lakes with the best color. This will allow him to learn to contour troll the three smaller sizes of Spoonplugs and begin the learning process in the correct manner. Learning to troll the shallows is the first step of becoming a good Spoonplugger and you cannot accomplish this task with a 20 foot weedline.

A full season should be spent on these types of lakes that have good water color. All lures can be run and in learning how to keep the first three size lures in position, much can be learned. The Spoonplugger learns about speed control and how slow or fast a lure can be run to make a fish take in each part of the fishing season. The feel of the lure bumping the bottom and the ability to tell when and where the bottoms are hard and firm or soft and mucky are learned first in the shallows. The observation of the shorelines while trolling the shallows is very important. It is also at this stage of the game that the fisherman learns to observe these shoreline terrains and relate what he observes to what he finds under the water.

He learns how and where to throw markers and how to get shoreline sightings. From the very beginning he begins to catch a few fish. The catching of the fish will spark questions of: "Why was this fish at this place, and what must I do to repeat this over and over?" Soon the reading of the study material and the effort on the water will begin to make sense to the fisherman and this will spark even more effort on his part to work even harder for the answers.

The best thing about Spoonplugging is that there are no two situations exactly alike. The weather conditions are constantly changing. The water conditions are constantly changing. The structure situations are all a little different. So you never get to a point where you can't get better. That is what makes it so much fun!!!!

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:

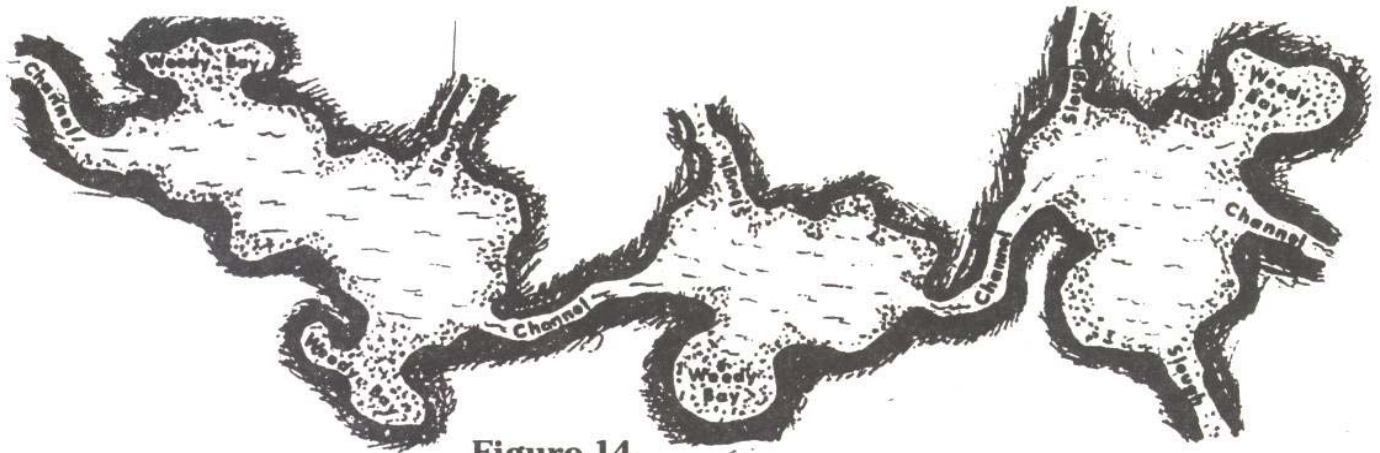


Figure 14

When viewing northern pike from a seasonal standpoint, there are things worthy of note. The pre-spawning or spawning period will find northern in the weedy bays and sloughs. Figure 14 shows a “chain” or series of lakes. The weedy bays and sloughs are noted. The northern will spawn earlier than most fish in the lake. **After spawning, the main structures and breaklines in the lake would be worked as with any other species.**

Another thought concerning northern in a series of lakes such as this is their apparent mass movement from one lake to another during the warmer part of the season. Large concentrations of big northern may show up in a lake during a certain period and fishing can be terrific for a week or more. Then the action slows in this particular lake, and the fish start showing up in the lake above, and later on in the lake above that one, and so on. When in a given area, these fish will use the structures present. Apparently, they make the return journey—as the next season, the movements starts all over again in the same lake at approximately the same period.

Fishermen who fish primarily for this species, and who fish water of this nature (Lake chain) would be wise to study this yearly migration fully. A definite pattern of date periods may not be possible, as the migration would be controlled by the weather and water conditions that exist, and very few years would be the same. But a good enough pattern could be secured to keep the fisherman in the most likely spots.

Many fishermen consider the northern pike a cold water fish. This is true, to a certain extent, as he is active in colder water, often being the target of the “ice fisherman.” But, it would be well to note, the best action occurs during the hottest periods of the year. Casting for northern can be effective, especially when they are in the shallows. But, to consistently catch BIG northern in numbers, trolling the deeper weedlines, breaklines, and drop-offs with appropriate lures is the way to go for most of the season.

When thinking of muskie, we change our view very little from that of the northern. Except in certain reservoirs, the shallower headwater sections will be prime spawning areas. After the water warms, they move back to the deeper sections. In the case of muskie, his deepwater sanctuary may be much deeper—and as he gets larger, he becomes more reluctant to move to shallow waters. His migration will be shorter and for less time. Where bass may have their “shallow” deepwater sanctuary, in 30-35 feet of water, muskie at the same time may have his at 45-55 feet if available. Big muskie are very reluctant to move shallow except during spawning period. After spawning, big muskie in the shallows become few and far between. If a particular lake had several deep holes with different depths, the muskie fisherman should concentrate his efforts around the deepest one for most of the season. Here again, lures trolled at deep breaklines will shoot to pieces the myth that muskies are difficult to catch.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”