



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held October 20, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members and guests present.

We welcomed a new prospective member, Granville Whittamore of Albion who has been fishing recently with Mike Price and has caught the fever along with some fish.

President Denny Coulardot reported that the fall turnover has begun with the night time temperatures beginning to dip into the low 30's. Surface temperatures have been in the mid 50's to low 60's.

John Bales reported on his recent week-long trip to Detroit River/Lake Erie with the Mike and Mark Brown. They had a couple of days where over 30 smallmouth were caught. On one day they caught a number of smallmouth between 4 1/2 and 5 1/2 pounds. The next week all the smallmouth were caught on the troll and none were caught casting. Nasty weather conditions may have accounted for the lack of tightly bound schools of smallmouth that are typical of this time of the season.

Denny revealed that one of his hand rules while working a structure is to be aware of the depth of baitfish while on the troll. He has rarely found predator fish ABOVE the depth that baitfish are found. And that when you begin to spot baitfish on your depth finder, it is often the first signs of the beginning of a movement. Something to keep in mind! John Bales and I also reported on our recent trip to Chattanooga for the Chattanooga Spoonplugger's annual outing at Chester Frost State Park on Lake Chickamauga.

John Bales fished with Kenny Hyde on Friday while

I fished with Wayne Alford. Wayne and myself fished a wing dam from 9:00 A.M. till Noon with 25 largemouth caught and only missing 2 trolling passes in that time without a hookup. One the first pass Wayne caught two bass on the same hook!

Kenny, John and I then fished the same area for the rest of the day and caught at least that many more while Wayne prepared the evening meal back at the campground. What an awesome place to fish and the "guide" service was outstanding!

But as good as the fishing was, the camaraderie was even better. It was great to meet new as well as old friends that hadn't been seen for a few years. The weather was outstanding, the evening meals were great and the visits with old and new friends went well into the wee hours.

What a bunch of nice people. They really rolled out the red carpet for everyone who came. They even provided boats to those who came without one! I believe Dennis Lamphier told me they had 31 people signed in for the Saturday night fish fry.

There was actually a good representation from the Hoosier State. Beside John and myself, Alan and Loretta Bales, Marty McAvoy and Sue Streit also attended.

It was reported that 3 million of the Florida strain largemouth had been stocked in Lake Chickamauga in recent years. If you haven't attended this outing it should be a priority for next year.

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

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Mike Price above with a 46” musky that tipped the scales at over 30 lbs.

Below is Roger Black who had been fishing with Mike on a different lake and caught this 46 incher.



“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



I have always said that each and every time that you re-study Mr. Perry's material that what you read will mean something a little different to you. The reason this happens is because you progress a little more each time you go fishing and you gain knowledge. Mr. Perry stated that we will not fully understand what we study the first time that we read it. We may not understand it fully even after several seasons. This is why we must continue to re-study the material no matter how long we may have done it. It is true that each and every time we go fishing, we continue to learn. The way that Mr. Perry set up our Spoonplugging guidelines was if we follow his directions, we can continue to get as good as we want to be.

Yesterday I picked up the green book and for some reason it unfolded at the next to the last page. On page 274 at the bottom, the last paragraph I read and it hit me like a truck.

"Always remember depth control means WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW." You might ask yourself at this time, what does this all mean? What in depth? Where in depth? When in depth? Why in depth and how in depth? There are still some questions about this statement at this time. Let's move on a bit. "Speed controls will make the fish take, and also tell you WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW." What in speed? Where in speed? When in speed? Why in speed and How in speed? Still we have more questions. Now he explains it all! "This puts all tackle items in their right perspective. You should know WHAT each will do, WHEN it is needed, WHERE it should be used, WHY it is needed and HOW it is used."

You should read this over several times. A lot is said in this last sentence.

Let me refer back to the green book again. On page 199, the last sentence in the third paragraph: "The approach to catching fish will not always be exactly the same, so you must react to the conditions which you face at that particular time." This is exactly what he is referring to.

Mr. Perry knew that educating the fisherman was an important step for Spoonplugging to be long lasting. The way that the study material was written allows the beginner to succeed and also will take him to what ever level he desires. If we follow these guidelines, it will not take long to understand all of the WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW of Spoonplugging.

We are so lucky to have Mr. Perry's guidelines. There are a lot of fishermen out there that do not understand what makes a fish tick and what he must do to catch him. We have these guidelines. We have an opportunity to understand why a fish reacts to certain conditions and what we must do to catch him. All we have to do is study the books and go out and do it. It's really not that hard. Mr. Perry did all the hard work.

The green book that I have was won in a raffle by my wife Deb. Mr. Perry signed it for her near the front. It reads like this.

"This has the poop! Study it!" It sure does!

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:

You Might Say

‘Several times during our study, you mention the word ‘satisfaction.’ To me the only way I will be satisfied is to fill the boat every time I go fishing.’

Well, I suppose you are just like a lot of other fishermen in the world. They, as well as you, should give up fishing because neither of you will ever get satisfaction from it. It just doesn’t work that way. Just about the time you think you have all the answers, old “fishing situations” lets you know how things are—and you get “skunked.”

To me, satisfaction in fishing comes from many directions. I am not saying that satisfaction does not come with lunker catches—that’s the name of the game. But can satisfaction come with guides showing you where to fish? Does satisfaction come with rushing down to the store to buy a hot lure? What satisfaction is there in doing what everyone else is doing? (Do you think you’ll discover some little magic “twitch” the other guys aren’t using?) Do you get satisfaction if you beat all the other guys all the time? I’ll bet you are one of those guys who switches lures when another fisherman approaches. I’ll wager you tell someone you made a catch in a lake or a spot, and then take off in another direction.

How many times have you told the other guy “exactly” **where** and **when** you caught the fish? How many times have you taken the family fishing? How many times have you “taught?” Have you ever experienced the feeling that comes with “working a lake out” all by yourself? Have you ever experienced the time when there was no anxiety about a fishing trip, or a new lake? Have you ever really felt the fellowship that can be had on a fishing trip? Do you know how it feels to not have to make excuses for failure? Do you know the satisfaction that comes with knowledge? Satisfaction can be had ALL the time, not just when you “luck” up on a few fish, beat the other guy, or build up your ego.

* * * * *

“You say the fishing stops when a cold front goes through. I’ve had a front go through and the temperature dropped way down, but I still caught some fish. It would appear to me your cold front ideas are way off.”

When the cold front was discussed, it was not stated the fishing “stopped.” We said the fish dropped deep and/or became very inactive. It was stated this condition could “skunk” the best of us, but it did not say fishing “stopped.” It meant that a passing cold front could separate the men from the boys. It meant that fishing “goes bad.”—deteriorates.

It was pointed out that AFTER the front goes through, the clouds normally disappear, and you have a completely “washed out” sky. It was **this** condition that curtailed the fish activity, not the drop in temperature. A temperature “change” in the shallow water may cause the fish to drop deeper, but when we think about it, it’s probably the “light” condition that gets you and me into trouble.

As far as the cold front effect being an “idea,” instead of a fact, you can take it either way you choose. I suggest though, before you make up your mind, you should get a little more fishing experience.

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