



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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**FOUNDED 1991**

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The last meeting was held August 18, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members and guests present.

We welcomed a couple of new guests:

Roger Black who lives on Big Lake, near Albion, and John Rules, also from Albion.

Much discussion took place concerning the recent Network Outing (See below)

John Bales discussed the importance of straight line passes. Keeping lures in position extremely important. One of the hardest lessons for newer Spoonpluggers is knowing where your lure is at all times. On wide, rounded bars, we may get by with contour trolling and keep our lures in position. However, with narrow bars, points and fingers, a straight line pass is the only way to keep our lures in the proper position in order to catch a fish. John reminded us that we must use markers as a reference point and make our straight line passes in both directions in order to thoroughly cover the structure.

### **2008 Network Outing Report:**

The Annual Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers Outing was held August 7-9, 2008 at the Forest Ridge Campground near Columbia City.

74 members and guests signed in during the 3 day event. The weather was far from ideal with a cold front moving in Wednesday like an unwelcome guest. Many states were represented including, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Kentucky, Nebraska, and North Carolina. Lou Kopiasz's son even

came from Port Orchard, Washington to fish with his father.

We were especially blessed to have Mrs. (Jeri) Buck Perry, as well as her son and daughter-in-law come all the way up from Taylorsville, North Carolina to spend a few days with us.

Even though the weather didn't cooperate, the fish did. A number of big largemouth bass were caught during the outing. Denny Coulardot and Matt Luley both caught 22 inchers and Brent Robbins caught a nice fat 21 incher. Largemouth are the most affected by bad weather conditions and few were expected. The number of large ones was a surprise to all. A number of good northern pike were also caught. Shawn Nicodemus caught a 38 incher and several others caught northerns nearly as big. Wayne Dyllo of Illinois caught and released a 45 inch musky.

A rainstorm sprang up at the Saturday night fish fry making the cooking chore a bit of a challenge.

Thanks go to Jennifer Krause for handing out 20 or more rain ponchos prior to the downpour. A team held a makeshift roof of canvas over the cooks until the rain subsided and as a result everyone was well-fed.

The 40 pounds of potatoes took a long time to cook and took up a lot of the fryers. As a result President Denny Coulardot declared that next year we would do away with the potatoes, either preparing potato salad beforehand, or some other substitute.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 15, 2008 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

**"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"**

2008 Annual "Buck Sez" Spoonplugger Outing



Alex Baker of Kentucky holds up a pair of nice bass



Chase Klinesteker of Muskegon with a very nice (and tasty) Walleye



President Denny Coulardot with a BIG Channel Cat



Lance Richards of Huntertown and a 37inch Northern Pike



Mike Beck of Minnesota with a very nice Musky and also with a very nice bass.



Matt Luley of Fort Wayne with a 22 inch bass and a 36 inch Northern Pike

**"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"**



Mike Price with very nice bass



Brent Robbins of Muskegon with a bass worth bragging about



Sue Streit outfishes Marty...again



Teresa Wetzel with a nice group of fish



Brian Bosler with a good bass



Wayne Dyllo's 45 inch Musky



### **NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN SPOONPLUGGING**

This is a photo of Joan Tobey of Wolf Lake, Indiana. She is 79 years old. She caught these 34 inch Northern Pike on a local lake in Indiana on August 22, 2008. Joan, who is an avid fisherperson, has always wanted to catch a fish bigger than a bluegill, so she went with Spoonplugger, Mike Price and had the time of her life! This was her first, but not her last Spoonplugging trip. She plans to take her twin sister next time. Joan caught these beauties on a 700 series Spoonplug at 18 feet on the troll. She even learned how to fillet them. Her only advice for older Spoonpluggers just starting out is to take along a lot of Tylenol for the sore muscles!

***"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.

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*“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”**