



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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#176

**FOUNDED 1991**

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The last meeting was held May 18, 2009 at the Kendallville Public Library with 20 members and guests present.

We welcomed back former members John & Kathy Fribley of Auburn.

Denny Coulardot reported that fishing had slowed somewhat. The bass have just finished spawning and as a result, bass fishing will be rather slow until they have recovered from the spawn. This recovery period will be dependent on how soon weather and water conditions improve. The water needs to warm into the deeper depths in order to crank up the metabolism of the recovering bass.

Fortunately, in a short period of time, the northerns will start to come into their summer pattern. This will give us a very catchable species until the bass come back into the picture. Denny and Mike Price recently caught 26 northerns in a 2-day period so I'd say they are definitely beginning to go.

John reported on a recent trip to Lake Erie around the Bass Islands for some early season smallmouth fishing with David Barker. They averaged about 30 smallies a day in the 4 lb range with a least one in the 6 lb category. He reported that fishing was tough but Lake Erie seems to always produce some good fish in spite of less than optimum fishing conditions. Denny also mounted his soapbox on the topic a weed spraying in local lakes. It seems to be a more and more frequent activity and usually coincides with the spawning season of the bass. Members have witnessed several fish kills following weed spraying operations. Even if the fish a not killed, it is without a doubt having a negative effect on the spawning of

one species or another, depending on which species happens to be in the shallows at the time. I believe a permit is required for the spraying procedure and I believe that whoever is contracted to do the spraying needs to have some type of license, however, there seems to be very little oversight and the contractor appears to be able to delegate the actual spraying to most anyone who walks upright and breaths. Perhaps some regulations need to be enacted and/or enforced to better protect our waters.

The spraying normally takes place in the shallows...for the most part...since that is where the weeds are. The fish that are killed and float to the top are the ones that are in the shallows and have full air bladders at the time of death. If the spray inadvertently gets into deeper water, as in the wind picks up or other water movement, such as current moves the spray, the resultant weed kills could also produce fish kills in the deeper water. These deep fish have deflated air bladders and do not float to the top for all to see.

The next Network Outing is the Muskegon Outing sponsored by the Lunker Hunters July 8-12, 2009 at Fisherman's Landing Campground, Muskegon, Michigan. Contact Chase Klinesteker for any details: email [ckspoonpl1@aol.com](mailto:ckspoonpl1@aol.com) or call (616) 949-8665

(See next page for further details)

**NEXT MEETING: June 15, 2009 at the  
Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P. M.**

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

## **OUTINGS FOR 2009**

### **Muskegon Outing** Muskegon, Michigan

Fisherman's Landing Campground

(231) 726-6100

July 8-12, 2009

Contact: Chase Klinesteker (616) 949-8665

Ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Directions to Fisherman's Landing Launch and Campground:

From US-31 just NORTH of Muskegon, exit west on Business US-31 and follow the curve south towards downtown Muskegon. Proceed west on Marquette Avenue for one block to Ottawa Street, three blocks south to Giddings Street, and one block west to Fisherman's Landing.

There are also a number of good motels nearby.

### **Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers**

#### **"Buck Sez" Outing**

Columbia City, Indiana

Forest Ridge Campground (NW of Columbia City)

August 13, 14, 15

Contact: John Bales (260) 854-3921

johnb@kuntrynet.com

Denny Coulardot (260) 691-3118

coular@peoplepc.com

### **Buck Perry Memorial Outing**

Taylorsville, NC

September 4, 5, 6

Contact: Terry O'Malley (828) 324-0661

buckperry@charter.net

### **Leoni Outing**

The Leoni Outing was held at John Zaborny's house June 3-7, 2009. around 68 Spoonpluggers from several states were in attendance including, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, and I'm probably forgetting a few other states as well!

The event got off to a bang.....literally.... on Thursday morning. You had to be there! Weather conditions were only fair and fishing was tough for the entire time, but everyone managed to catch plenty of fish for a Saturday night fish fry. John, TJ and the Leoni Club put in a lot of work to make this a fun and successful outing. John's home cooked seven course breakfast and suppers each day kept everyone together and the fellowship was unbeatable. David Bishop even provided an outstanding Oscar-winning performance at the Friday night supper!

This is one of the most beautiful places one could hold an outing. Plenty of room for campsites, a pond full of fish, a shooting range, trails, a few minutes away from several lakes, good food, good friends....just the best of everything and always unforgettable. You have to keep coming back each year to see what John has added! Don't miss this outing next year.

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# Good Spoonplugging

**By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor**



I am going to tell you how to become a very good Spoonplugger in short order. First, forget about fishing for any other fish except for game fish such as bass, pike, musky and walleye. Stick to two types of lures; Spoonplugs and jump type lures. Choose a lake that has some color. This will be your most important choice....a lake with color.

I assume will assume you have studied all of the written material. All you have to do now is go out and do it. And I **mean by the book**. Not half-way by the book but just as it is written. Use your markers and shoreline sightings. Learn to identify breaklines by watching your depth meter while running from the shallows to the deep. Pay close attention to the changes in depth. This will show you each breakline. Learn to follow the different breaklines around the structure situations that you find. This will show you the

size and shape of the feature. Now you can throw markers and make your trolling passes. It is not that difficult.

One thing that you must know when fishing the natural lakes is: how deep do the weeds grow? I am surprised at how many fishermen do not make this observation. There is no way that a fisherman can move forward without this information. Following the base of a weedline will show the size and shape of a structure situation in short order.

I am thinking about several great Spoonpluggers. What do they have in common? The answer is they are all very self-disciplined. They do not vary from Mr. Perry's guidelines. They are the ones that stick with it on those days that the fish are not jumping in the boat. We tend to forget that the fish do not move constantly or consistently. We are actually waiting for the fish to become active and move so we can catch him. If we give up and decide to go down a minnow or a worm, we don't have much of a chance to become a good Spoonplugger. What we are waiting on only happens once or twice a day. And it may only last for fifteen minutes. If we are lucky, it may last for an hour but I would not count on it.

Discipline may not be the right word. Desire is better. These Spoonpluggers that I am thinking about all had a strong desire to learn. This same group would spend every extra hour on the water putting to use every bit of knowledge that Mr. Perry wrote in his books. Time on the water is very likely the most important reason that these guys are such good Spoonpluggers. They have experienced most of what they have read and now they can take that knowledge with them where ever they fish. If at any time that they vary from Mr. Perry's material, it is because they have learned through experience that it is time to cast or do what ever it takes to catch the fish on this particular day and under this situation. To be a great Spoonplugger you must learn the art of Spoonplugging. Once it is learned, it will tell you when to do the other things. You will know why to do the other things. You will know where to do the other things. You will know what to do at the time, and you will know how to do these things. We must learn to become a good Spoonplugger first and then all other things will fall into place.

*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 belief is, as the fish gets older and bigger, his ability to adapt to changes in his environment begins to slow down or to diminish (starting about the third year). This “slow down” may be greater in some fish than in others of the same species. This alone would explain “stragglers.” I believe his ability to adapt to changes in his environment slows until he dies of old age. This **forces** bigger fish to deep water and this in turn plays a part in survival of the young and the species. I figure a small fish feels pretty safe when he stays or scoots to the shallows (0 to 8-10 feet) when the big fish get on the prowl.

Let’s face it, there are two main drives all creatures have: 1-Survival, 2-Continuation of the Species. If the deep water wasn’t the place where the fish spend a greater part of their time, they probably wouldn’t be around today for us to catch.

I could say I pity those who only have doubts about the deep water being the home of the fish, especially larger fish. However, I would not use the term “pity” when speaking to those whose minds are not open enough to at least give it a try.

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Another thought concerning northern pike in a series of lakes such as chain of lakes 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 movement starts all over again in the same lake and 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 or date periods may not be possible, as the migrations 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 the 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.

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