



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held July 19, 2010 at the Kendallville Public Library with 17 members present.

The hot summer has initiated algae blooms on many area lakes. This dark water condition combined with the warming of the water to the greater depths has resulted in some really good post spawn fishing. Denny and Mike Price reported 302 northerners so far this year. They have only kept and cleaned 5 of that total. Denny mentioned that a group of good Spoonpluggers keeping everything they catch could have a negative effect on the fish population of some lakes. Smaller bodies of water are especially vulnerable to being overfished. For this reason, he stocks his freezer with bluegill and crappie rather than the larger game fish and encouraged members to consider doing the same. By all means, keep some fish to eat, just don't be greedy about it. Most lake residents are very protective of their home waters, even more so if they happen to be fisherpersons! It only takes a few guys hauling big catches home from their lake to give Spoonpluggers and our club a bad name. If we all use common sense, we will avoid any bad publicity. 'Nuf said.

Denny reported that the fishing was just starting to get a little tougher. Denny thinks that the recent slow down in numbers of fish caught might be attributed to the fish moving at night. The night movements would be particularly common in the summer months on the clearer lakes.

John Bales reported that this is his best season yet for

bass. He has caught over 2,000 bass so far this year!! It will be interesting to see those numbers by the end of the year!

Attention turned to the upcoming Annual "Buck Sez" Network Outing, August 12, 13, 14 at the Forest Ridge Campground, 5000 Elder Road, Larwill, Indiana 46764-9711 (about a mile north off Old Lincoln Highway) (260) 327-3551. The campground is within 15 miles of many lakes including Wawasee, Webster, Tippecanoe, & Chapman lakes. There are a number of motels located about 5 miles from the campground on US 30 in Columbia City.

Menus for each day's evening meals were planned and assignments given various members. Members are requested to bring a passing dish for at least one of the evening meals. Thanks.

Also, we traditionally have a raffle at the conclusion of the Saturday night fish fry. If you have something to donate to the drawing, please see that the items get to Ted Walter prior to the drawing. Thanks again.

Don't forget the upcoming **Annual Buck Perry Memorial Outing** in Taylorsville, NC September 9, 10, 11, 2010. Contact Terry O'Malley (828) 324-0661 or Jeri Perry (828) 632-8058
buckperry90@charter.net

NEXT MEETING: August 16, 2010 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Howard LaLone with a pair of nice northerns



Bobby Meredith with a 22 inch bucketmouth



FIRST FISH! Inspired by Jerry Borst's article in the last National Spoonplugger, I took my 2 1/2 old grandson Spoonplugging for the first time. Good thing it was hooked good....I thought the northern was going to die of old age before he got him cranked in!

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Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Last week I spent a week with Kenny Hyde down on Lake Kissimmee in Florida on a fishing trip. We camped out near Frank Hamill and enjoyed spending some time each morning and evening with Frank and his wife. Their hospitality and friendship is something I will always cherish. One thing I learned about Kenny is that he absolutely does not have any quit in him. He has that burning desire to learn and seek out the answers that puts him at the top of my list of one of the best that is out there. Our expectations were very high. The conditions of weather and water and those that were man made did not deter our efforts. You might look at our lack of fish (plus all that happened to us that might have given us a negative attitude) as a lousy trip. We did our best to try and understand all that was experienced.

In my younger days, I took the trip to Florida with Chuck Gladieux and our families to Lake Marion. In those days, it was one of the top lakes in Florida for big bass and it was in its prime. I did not know enough back in those days and I failed to know what to look for and how to interpret the whole Florida situation. It was one of my goals to return back to this same lake years later to see where I had failed. When Kenny showed me the features of the lake and what to look for, it was plain to see that there was no one at fault but me. I just did not know enough. I hung my head last week for a short time and Kenny let me run the boat to see what I had missed. It only took a few hours for us to put this lake in our hip pocket so to speak. In a short time, it was easily understood what we must do as Spoonpluggers to catch a fish out of this type body of water.

A lot was learned from this time on the water fishing these Florida lakes. How weather and water affects the movements of the fish stands out the most. Kissimmee Lake was drawn down at least two feet for the hurricane season. This made a lot of the breaklines formerly productive just too shallow to get many fish to migrate to those depths. The amount of line let out and the lure size was very important in controlling our depths and speeds in getting the fish to take. Getting to see the features that the Florida lakes have in them was an eye opener. Large features that are bar-like can run for miles with twists and turns a lot like our natural lakes. The speeds needed to get the fish to take were between 6 and ten miles per hour with a lot of up and down checking all the time. This is due to the shallow and warm water temperatures. A bird's eye view of how a fish that does not have depth is effected by a bad weather condition was seen first hand. For 5 days, the movements were one fish in the morning and one fish in the early afternoon with hours between strikes. Another thing that was noticed is that there are no straggler fish caught between movements. When it does happen, you need to get the fish in quickly and get back in the water to take advantage of these short movements. It is like a fire drill at top speeds. You need to work as a team in order to be effective. The heat is like no other that I have ever felt. In order to stay out there, you need to have at least two gallons of water and keep wet towels in the cooler to keep from frying your brain. It will take a toll on the body.

For several years, the state of Florida has sprayed the weeds with chemicals. Who knows what affect this has on the population of fish and does it affect their daily movements? This just adds more variables to the understanding of what is going on with the fish. The location of these bodies of water puts the fisherman in a situation where the weather can run you off the lakes. The sheer size is one thing but these storms that come up in the afternoon must be respected. We had at least three days out of seven that we were run off the lake with storms and lightning. One day we ran into one that changed directions and forced us to the opposite end of the lake 18 miles in the wrong direction. We gave it some time to recede and tried to get back, only for the wind to change and we had to go 15 miles out of the way to stay out of danger. We finally made it 12 miles or so back to camp when the storm let us get back. During our stay we saw more alligators than people. The whole trip was a total learning experience for the both of us. Getting to spend some time with the Hamills was at the top of the list.

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 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.

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