



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held January 18, 2010 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members present.

The annual trip to Elk Grove Village for the Illinois Spoonpluggers 8th Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar was discussed. All members were encouraged to attend. This is always a top quality learning seminar and is especially important for newer members. The discussions are always interesting and informative. Meeting and getting to know some of the best Spoonpluggers in the nation makes this seminar worthwhile for every Spoonplugger, regardless of experience. Mrs. Perry and Terry O'Malley are scheduled to be on hand this year. If you are planning to attend and would like to coordinate for carpooling, get in touch with John Bales (260) 854-3921.

Mike Luley reported that he has found an outlet for Carboloy tips for wire line rods. They can be purchased at Donatrods.com (866) 489-2046. The tips are not cheap, but they last practically forever. Ice fishing was discussed. John, Denny and Dan Luley have been getting their fair share of pan fish. They have evidently been doing some on-the-ice instructions also. A story was told of a fisherman fishing recently near John and Dan who hauled enough equipment out on the ice to build a fish but didn't necessarily know how to use the equipment. John and Dan were pulling fish in right and left. The poor guy wasn't catching anything. John finally took pity on the guy and showed him how to read his depth meter, etc. While John was demonstrating, the guy caught a huge crappie...the biggest fish of the day in

John's hole. That's the way it always seems to go!

John discussed the 2009 fishing season. It was a pretty lousy year. Our weather is always bad. 3.1 days between cold fronts is the year-round average in Chicago. However, 2009 was worse than normal by a ways. The cool weather meant cooler than normal water temperatures...which means fewer and less robust algae blooms so the water was, on average, clearer than normal. The cooler temperatures also prevented the deeper depths from warming to the degree we have come to expect and took longer to warm besides. As a result, the season was shorter for all species. We won't know for a few years, but the cooler temperatures may have resulted in failed spawns for certain species on certain lakes. Fall temperatures moved in a bit early too and the fall fishing was a few weeks shorter than usual.

Hopefully 2010 will be kinder and the temperatures return to a more normal pattern. John pointed out that because of the cooler temperatures, lakes with good water color played an even more important role than normal last year. He feels that lakes with water color are going to take on more and more importance in our fishing because of the lakes getting clearer due to central sewer systems becoming widespread and invasive species (zebra mussels) having a profound effect on our lakes.

RED ALERT: Due to Kendallville Library being closed for Presidents Day the date for the next meeting is changed to:

FEBRUARY 22, 2010 @ 6:30 P. M.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

OUTINGS FOR 2010

**Illinois Spoonpluggers
8th Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar
March 13, 2010**

Elk Grove Public Library
Elk Grove Village, Illinois
Contact: Jim Duplex (630) 579-9815
jld82@sbcglobal.net

Leoni Spoonpluggers Jackson, MI
June 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 2010
Contact John Zaborny (517) 414-3508
jszaborny@yahoo.com

Muskegon Outing Muskegon, Michigan
Fisherman's Landing Campground
July 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2010
Contact: Chase Klinesteker (616) 949-8665
Ckspoon1@aol.com

**Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers
"Buck Sez" Outing**
Columbia City, Indiana
Forest Ridge Campground (NW of Columbia City)
August 12, 13, 14, 2010
Contact: John Bales (260) 854-3921
johnb@kuntrynet.com
Denny Coulardot (260) 691-3118
coular@peoplepc.com

Buck Perry Memorial Outing
Taylorsville, NC
September 9, 10, 11, 2010
Contact: Terry O'Malley (828) 324-0661
buckperry@charter.net

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



When we are growing up, we take interest in certain things. Some things more than others. Strangely enough, aren't we quite lucky that Mr. Perry's desire in life was figuring out what makes a fish tick? Many of his findings were figured out when he was a very young man. Let's take a look at some of his findings. Look at the Spoonplug itself. A tool that was designed not to sell but to control his depths and speeds. What skill was needed for the design that will allow a lure to control depth and speeds while moving slow or fast and still maintain control?

What about weather and water conditions? Do you suppose that any one would have related the weather and water conditions to the movements of the fish if Mr. Perry had not put in the time and effort to come up with the answers? What time and thought was given to figuring out that it was the amount of light that penetrated into the water that made the fishing either good or bad? Add to this his findings of what water color is best for the least amount of light penetration and what is the worst condition?

And that a pre-frontal condition (low light and cloudy) is associated with good fishing and a post frontal condition (blue bird skies and washed out) can mean tough fishing. The grandpa stories about fishing in the rain would hold true for an old wives tale but without the evidence to back it up it would be just like the other ones out there. Everyone's ideas would be different. That's why Mr. Perry went out and put his desires to work to learn what he had questioned his whole life.

Do you suppose any one would have come up with a vocabulary which would consist of the words "structure", "breaks" and "breaklines" and that we could carry on a conversation with everyone knowing what is being talked about? How long did Mr. Perry troll his lures before he found out that the fish spend most of their life in deep water? That they may become active once or twice a day and they do not just go north or west, but use well defined routes that they can see. And that these routes must lead all the way to the shallows and then back to the deepest water in the area. How many trips did he make and how many hours were invested before there was an assumption made on any of these findings?

Lake types..... Highland, Lowland, Flatland and natural lakes and ponds. He fished them all!!!!!! Made observations in weather, water, structure, breaks and breaklines while doing so. Noted how the structure situations differed in different sections and took note of the different water colors associated with the surrounding. He found that in some sections the fishing was easy and in some, it was more difficult. He found that some species travel long distances and show up in certain sections at different times of the year. He found that some species were easy to catch and some were more effected by a change in the weather conditions.

He found that a lure that is bumping the bottom has a different effect than a lure just swimming through the water running free. By developing a lure that would work the bottoms of the waters that he was fishing that he could feel the difference of a hard or a soft bottom. The ability of that lure and its use for mapping out a fishing situation while controlling his depths and speeds had no equal.

We could go on with Mr. Perry's findings till we have a book as thick as a Harry Potter book. My point is that we appreciate what was left behind for us to be able to study and put to use knowledge that can make us as good a fisherman as we want to be. Mr. Perry's accomplishments will never be given enough credit as he knew but he still did not stop sharing.

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:

Too often, during the pre-spawn and the spawning season, fishermen rush to the water expecting to find the fish in the shallows. They become puzzled when they don't find them there. They tend to forget that how far a fish moves on migration, and how long they stay is dependent upon the weather and water conditions that exist at that particular time. They neglect weather and water, and if the deeper parts of the structures are checked at all—it's a short check—done in a half hearted manner. They return to the shallows **with no regard to where it is** because “the fish just gotta be there—it's that time of the year.”

The pre-spawn and spawning season is a period of changing weather and water conditions. Fish react to these changes just as they do in any part of the season. Weather and water condition can wreck a spawning season. This is one of the reasons why there are missing age groups in most waters. A good rule to follow during this period is; the closer the spawning season the more fish can be **expected** in the shallows. Be happy when this occurs. One trip may be good and the next bad. One year might be good and the next bad.

Regardless how many times I say the speed control will vary during the season—reaching a maximum in hot weather, and a minimum in the colder—I find the average fisherman encounters a great deal of difficulty in adapting his speed control to the season. He has a tendency to forget how much this control can change during the season. He will tend to stick with one speed too long after a reduction or and increase is called for. Maybe he hasn't fished for a couple of months, and doesn't realize the speed factor may have changed. You must remember that speed control can change from a trolling speed with the motor practically full throttle (5-10 H.P.) in the hottest weather, to a speed in the cold part, to a jump type lure that is moving so slowly it seems an eternity between each new cast.

My experience through the years has proven to me that few fishermen absorb anything but the operation and controls that were present when contact was made with the fish—a specific lure produced at a particular place, and in a certain way. They failed at a later date because they assumed where the fish would be, and what it took to catch him. This kind of thinking results in failure. You must never believe that a particular presentation, depth, speed, or color is best. Being neutral in every respect on every trip is a must. Only after fish have been located is it safe to say that something appears best, but certainly not before, nor on future trips.

Whatever the time of year it might be, or whatever the weather and water conditions may be, regardless of how short and slow the movement might be, your best chance of catching fish is by fishing the most potentially productive water. You will never catch fish by fishing where they ain't.

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