



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 9

#191

FOUNDED 1991

September 2010

PRESIDENT: Denny Coulardot
(260) 691-3118

SECRETARY: Ted Walter
(260) 495-5042

EDUCATION DIRECTOR: John Bales
(260) 854-3921

The last meeting was held August 16, 2010 at the Kendallville Public Library with 17 members present.

Most of the discussion centered around the successfully concluded "Buck Sez 2010" network outing.

The 2010 Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Network Outing, August 12, 13, & 14th near Columbia City, IN was undoubtedly the hottest outing we've ever experienced. Temperatures in the 90's during the three days made for some uncomfortable conditions in which to fish. But good numbers of fish were caught on the many area lakes regardless. Northern pike are typically the dominant species caught during the outing, but this year presented Spoonpluggers with a bit of a surprise. Largemouth bass were the overwhelming favorites. To add to the mystery, the lakes on which the bass were caught have not been known to have a abundant population of bass during the previous 5 years. The water color in these lakes provides part of the solution to the mystery. Area lakes this year have had numerous and durable algae blooms making the lakes much darker than during the past several years. The combination of the darker water color with the increased water temperatures and conditions are favorable to longer movements and migrations of the fish due to an increased metabolic rate.

Although many bass were caught, Steve Bosler took top honors this year with a 23 1/3 inch largemouth. Jeff Parham also caught a very nice group of big largemouth as did many other Spoonpluggers. A few muskies were boated, but not as many as in

years past.

72 people showed up this year for the Saturday night fish fry and drawing. Approximately 50-60 lbs of fish were cooked and devoured in about an hour, followed by a drawing for some great prizes.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all the members and friends who helped make the outing such a success. We received numerous donations of items for the drawing, foodstuffs for the evening meals, loans of tents and awnings, and volunteers for meal preparations and clean up. John Zaborny even prepared a breakfast for everyone one morning! Thanks again guys and gals.

Denny Coulardot announced that the Forest Ridge Campground will have a conflict with our outing for next year. They have promised seasonal spaces in the camping area we have used for the past several years. Several members are to contact other area campground to see what arrangements might be made for next year's outing. If anyone has any other suggestions, please bring them up at the next meeting for discussion. We hope to have a location finalized in the next couple of months. We may also consider moving the date back a week.

John Bales gave a talk on fishing Florida lakes. John recently spent a week fishing Lake Kissimmee with Kenny Hyde. His talk covered bottom interpretations of these shallow lakes with the aid of a depth meter.

NEXT MEETING: September 20, 2010 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Denny Coulardot with a nice largemouth



"One Dip or Two?" That's a tough question to answer!



Chase Klinesteker with a real nice largemouth and one of the few muskies caught during the outing



"BUCK SEZ" 2010

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Spoonplugging is an art! It was invented by a highly self-motivated genius. If you have any doubts to this statement, it is only because you have not had enough success in order to appreciate the knowledge that Mr. Perry left behind. His understanding of what made a fish react to his environment was studied for many years. He then went all across the country and proved that his thoughts were truly fishing facts. His accomplishments will never be realized by most. How could they be? Most of those who fish not only never heard of Buck Perry but have never accepted his findings to be as fact. He knew that. One of the things that he may have failed to mention (or at least drill into a persons mind) is how hard that the fisherman is going to have to work at this in order for him to see some success. Most fisherman want success handed to them on a silver platter. That is the mentality of those who do not know what makes a fish tick. Many want to be able to go out and buy a new lure that the fish have not seen and go out and expect to get limits of lunkers. These are the fisherman that do not know what they must do to catch a fish.

Some shy away from Spoonplugging because they find out that they must read a book on it. Yes, I have actually heard them say "I have to read a book to learn this"? And then it's over for them at that point. It is easy to just walk away from that person with the thought that at least I tried.

Here is the least understood part of what a person must do to become a good Spoonplugger. It doesn't just pertain to just one thing. First a fisherman must study the material. I do mean study!!!! Then he must believe what he reads. This is difficult because what Mr. Perry states for the most part is just the opposite of what you have heard from your grandfather and his grandfather. No one ever understands what is studied the very first time through. It's a matter of fact that it may take years to experience enough situations where you will understand it all. So study is the first thing that we must do. Next is to put it to work out on the water. Having the right tools such as rods, reels, lines, lures, boat , anchors and everything else involved may have a little to do with how soon you start seeing some success. Let me put it like this. Any tool that you use that does not allow you to control your depths and speeds at all times will cost you in the learning process. That is the bottom line.

How much time do I need to spend on the water in order to start seeing some success? This is a very good question. If you spend a lot of time on the water doing things in the wrong manner , then the learning will take quite a long time. You must go about the learning by the book. If you are one who will not follow directions then you can forget this and you should take up golf or go bowling. Do not go fishing, especially to catch fish.

Water color is talked about as being one of our most important observations. So start your learning on a body of water with good water color and this is where you learn to run the smaller lures. Learn to troll the shallows first and then move on.

I forgot something and this is a good place to bring it in. If you are one who has very little patience and cannot go a length of time without catching a fish, then this may not be for you. If you do this for an hour and stop and drown a worm trying to catch a fish because you ran out of patience, then this is not for you. It is important to stick with it and do not vary from what the study material says to do. If it says to draw a map of what you think is there, then draw it. If you cannot draw it, then you don't know what is there to begin with. All of Mr. Perry's teachings is there to benefit the fisherman. He has been through it all and knows best what you and I need to do to become good at this thing. I do not think that most fisherman realize how much effort and time on the water is put into this for anyone to see success. Lack of effort is the fisherman's biggest problem. This is why we have so few really great Spoonpluggers. Some probably don't like me saying that but that's just the way I see it. Mr. Perry knew that it would be this way. Even he said that Spoonplugging would never be accepted by the mass of fishermen. And he was right on the money.

So the next time you are out on the water and things are just not going the way that you want, don't put the boat on the trailer and go home. Stick it out and those few extra hours or effort just might be the ticket that will get you into the fish. Then you will see what it takes and stick to it.

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:

What ‘triggers’ the activity and movements of the fish?”

There is no question that it is a weather condition. But, we doubt if anyone knows the **exact** part that starts and stops the movements. It could be a combination of many things. We have our ideas but we have no definite **FACTS**. We feel **LIGHT** plays a major role, and Buck can quite often predict when a movement is about to begin, or when one is in progress, by his observations of the light present. He uses his **LIGHT** observations as his guide to the activity and movements of the fish—for he says: “If my light observations give me the answers, that’s good enough for me.”

One thing we should all agree on is the movements of the fish are not “triggered” or controlled by their hunger. We would have a hard time figuring out why all the fish in the lake become hungry at the same time. And, it would not explain the activity and movement without feeding. A game fish can be made to “strike”—this is his nature. We never expect to catch our fish feeding, but we’re happy when this occurs.

You may want to know if the moon has any effect on the fish? We have not been able to find any relationship between movements and the phase of the moon. If there were any, we are quite sure local weather and water conditions would completely wreck it.

* * * * *

“Are fish of all sizes and age groups bunched up together down in the deep water?”

The study material said the smaller fish were not compatible with the larger fish. We classify the smaller fish into a group, called “yearlings.” These are normally from one to three years old. Some may be older, but where growth is good, you can view the smaller fish group as being of this age. A better way probably to view the smaller fish would be to say, until they reach about 2-2 1/2 pounds, they are not compatible with the larger fish. When the larger fish get on the move, the yearlings scoot to the safety of the shallows.

You will find, in some instances, where a school of bigger fish are all about the same size. At other times, they will come in several different sizes. The age, fertility, and reproduction of a body of water would have a bearing on the sizes in any particular school.

* * * * *

“Are there fishing situations where the fish, when they move towards shallower water, do not move toward or along structure such as bars, but will move shallower by going ‘vertically’ toward the surface?”

This Spoonplugging (structure fishing) study is primarily concerned with the larger species of game fish (bass, walleye, northern pike, muskies, stripers, etc.). However, there are certain water situations and certain species of fish where part of a movement may be, at times, directly toward the surface. The fish may be “drawn” toward the surface due to some attraction or “noise.” However, all the movements would be related to structure or some bottom feature; **AND**, the upward movement (toward the surface) will occur only **AFTER** the fish become active and moving. In a later study we will discuss fishing situations where a part of a migration may be vertical. But to **CONSISTENTLY** put fish on our stringer, “structure” (features of the bottom the fish use) is still our guide to where most of the **CATCHABLE** fish may be found.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS”