



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held July 18, 2011 at the Kendallville Public Library with 19 members present.

Fishing reports were generally good. With temperatures hotter than the hinges on the gateway to Hades, the waters have warmed nicely to greater depths and some good catches are being made. Thermoclines are appearing and algae blooms are present in many lakes. (See John Bales article on Water Color)

Denny Coulardot & Mike Price reported over 400 northern caught so far this year along with lots of bass that he didn't count.

Much of the meeting was spent discussing and planning the upcoming "Buck Sez" Network Outing August 11, 12, & 13, 2011 at Forest Ridge Campground.

As usual, we had plenty of volunteers to help out. We will have coffee in the morning, and an evening meal for each of the 3 days. The tentative menu is as follows:

Thursday: Pulled pork & baked beans

Friday: Chili & hotdogs

Saturday: Fish Fry

Any member who can bring a passing dish for any of these days is encouraged to do so. We will also have

a raffle on Saturday night following the fish fry. If you have any items you can donate, please try to bring it prior to the raffle.

We would also like to encourage any members who do not usually camp out during the outing to at least come to the Saturday night fish fry (or any other night for a visit) There is no charge at the campground for doing so. Thanks.

We also discussed the upcoming Spoonpluggers Jamboree:

Spoonpluggers Jamboree

@ Kenlake State Park and Resort

October 6, 7, 8, 9, 2011

Contact: John Bales (260) 854-3921

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or

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The cost will be \$25.00 per person for early sign-up and should be the highlight of the year for attending Spoonpluggers. This looks to be a great facility with some great fishing waters within minutes of the campsite. The traditional Spoonpluggers Jamboree was about getting everyone's fishing questions answered. We intend to continue with that tradition. More on this to follow.

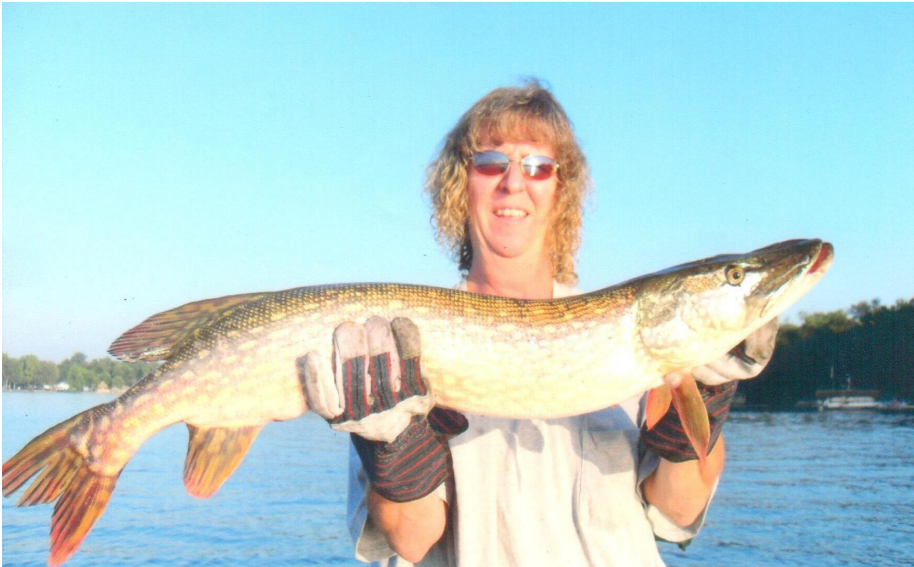
NEXT MEETING: August 15, 2011 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Norm Johnson with a 45 inch musky caught on the Barbee Chain

Matt Luley (and Chandra) with a nice musky.



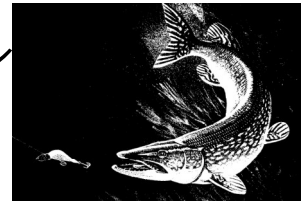
Norene Luley with an extra nice northern pike.

“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Water Color

The most important observation that a fisherman can make is in water color." Mr. Perry has always tried to drill this message into our heads. From day one, it was always about water color. "You boys having trouble catching fish?" "Go to the headwaters where you will have better water color." The fish grow faster, you will have shallower movements, the breaklines are shallower, the movements will last longer and the whole ball of wax becomes easier. Do not fight success, Go there and experience what water color will do for your fishing success.

At the Muskegon outing, Mona Lake was a big hit. Why? It has great water color. Walleyes, smallmouth, northern pike and large mouth bass were caught in big numbers by the Spoonpluggers. Hess Lake did not give up its normal limits of big bass but many good fish were still caught in less than ten feet of water due to the great yellow green water color. Jeff Parham and I stopped at Allegen Reservoir on the way home and caught nearly 50 fish off of one anchoring position. Most all of them were caught shallower than 8 feet. Why? The great water color of course!!!!

I went over to Witmer Lake last Saturday morning. In about four hours, I got 60 bass up to 18 inches with most of them caught casting on two spots. I told Jeff about it and on Sunday he went about two o'clock in the afternoon and he caught 20+ bass up to three pounds and was home by six. Most of his came on the troll. Most of the fish in both cases were caught from 6-10 feet. Why? Great water color!!!!

When our lakes get an algae bloom, it is time to move in to have some fun. The main reason that our lakes have got such good color is the extreme temperatures that we have had so far this summer. I heard on the weather that this July has been the warmest temperatures that has ever been recorded. What does Mr. Perry say about the hot weather? " The best movements of the year will occur on the hottest, muggiest day of the year!!!!!! If he said it, then that's good enough for me. Now get out there and find you some good color and have some fun. The fishing is really on fire and the time is right for picking cherries!!!!!!

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.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”