

'Pluggers have luck with northerns, muskie

Written by Staff Reports

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KENDALLVILLE — The last meeting of the Lunker Hunter Spoonpluggers was held May 17 at the Kendallville Public Library with 17 members and guests present.

Denny Coulardot reported that the muskie are still going pretty good. Mike Price and Denny have also been having good success catching northerns lately by trolling spinner baits over the weeds. Their tally so far this season is 45 muskie and 53 northerns.

They have also caught a few bass. Mike reported a 21-inch largemouth just a few days ago. Most of the bass have now spawned. A few remain in the shallows on the spawn, but for the most part the bass's shallow water days are over. It will take some time and some warmer weather before the bass will be caught with any consistency. But fortunately, the walleye and northerns have recovered from their spawn and are ready for action.

Denny gave a spawning timeline on the Midwest game fish from the first to the last to spawn for Northerns (just after ice-out), walleyes, musky, crappie, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass (water temps first reach the mid-60s).

The upcoming Jackson, Michigan Leoni Outing was discussed and a few of the Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers will be present. The Leoni Outing will be June 8-13. Contact John Zaborny (517) 414- 3596 or email jszaborny@yahoo.com.

John Bales went over questions raised in last month's newsletter. He stressed the importance of fishing shallower and darker colored lakes in the early season. These lakes warm up much faster than the deeper, clearer lakes so fish metabolism gets jazzed up much earlier. This factor may account for why darker colored lakes seem to produce more and fatter fish. By the time a deep clear lake warms to the deeper depths, the summer season is nearly over.

The next meeting is June 21 at the Kendallville Public Library, 6:30 p.m.