

SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP AUGUST 18, 2005

FISHING REPORTS: Don Stephens and Charlie Meyers fished Muskegon Lake recently and caught a 26 inch pike in 30 feet of water. They speculated as to how deep they might have to go to catch the big ones! They have fished Muskegon Lake a lot lately, which is a good way to learn the structures of a lake and compare to locate the best ones. Charlie has a video camera which showed that there are many walleyes and lots of slabwood in Muskegon Lake. The slabwood can stick up from the bottom and appear on the graph like fish. They found many species of fish mixed together there. Since early July Charlie has caught 20 pike from 30 to 36 inches in this lake, mostly related to the deep 20-30 foot breaklines. 1-5 PM has been the time he has experienced most fish movements. Russ Headworth has been fishing the Grand River and catching good numbers of smallmouth bass to 18 inches with some small northerns and walleye thrown in. He likes the quick and easy access this affords. Tom Moore caught 11 walleye and 10 pike last week from Fremont Lake but fewer than half were keepers. Roger Bouwkamp fished Morrison Lake and caught 12 good bass casting 100 Spoonplugs. 4 hit while the lure was dropping, a sign that the fish were very active! He couldn't catch fish trolling until he sped up and used a short line (1 ½ colors) with a larger lure. Chase fished Murry Lake and caught 2 pike to 33 inches (9 pounds) and 2 small muskies. All were caught at the base of the weedline (18 feet) on a 100 and wire.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION PROJECT: Bob Strek informed us about a \$20 billion federal project to restore the Great Lakes. He attended a meeting in Grand Rapids of 150 people who were mostly environmentalists. Fishing clubs were not notified. Although restoring the Great Lakes is a worthy goal, Bob is worried that the concerns of fishermen will not be taken into account and that federal dollars will dictate what kind of fishing they will be restored to. If you are interested, check out the website: www.glrc.us to view the report and to offer input. Comments must be made before September 9.

TRIBUTE TO BUCK PERRY: The passing of Buck Perry on August 12 was brought up. A sympathy card to Jeri Perry from the Lunker Hunters was signed by all present. Chase sent a flower arrangement from the Lunker Hunters to the funeral home. The Lunker Hunters have been very much involved with Spoonplugging over many years (since 1972). Our Lunker Hunter logo features a Spoonplug in it. The Spoonplugging "display" (museum) in Hickory, North Carolina has a section devoted to pictures of past and present Lunker Hunters. Also on display is the classic Lunker Hunter hat designed by Mike Dordan with a Spoonplug on the bill. We went around the room for comments on how Mr Perry has influenced our fishing. Jack Clark said he was astonished when he first met Buck and how he described catching many fish in Lake Saint Claire on 6 inch breaklines. This was on Jacks "home waters" and helped him greatly in his fishing. Don Stephens has met and talked with Buck many times and commented that he always had "depth and speed" ringing in his ears afterward. Don first heard about Buck in the 1960s' and said that he was getting very frustrated with his fishing at that time and would probably be golfing now if it weren't for the common sense knowledge he found in Spoonplugging. Roger Bouwkamp was amazed that anyone could come up with such an organized and effective approach to fishing. He attributed it to Bucks' scientific background, analytical mind, determination, and many years of fishing experience. The "Father of Modern Day Structure Fishing" will be greatly missed but his discoveries will continue to influence fishing around the world for many years.

INDIANA OUTING REPORT: Don and Chase attended the Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers outing August 12-14. They fished Hamilton Lake, a good sized lake in Northeast Indiana. A copy of the map was projected on the wall to demonstrate the learning experience. The greatly irregular outline of the shallow water shelf did not coordinate at all with the shoreline form, and it was difficult at first to determine where we were on the lake. Several productive structures were pointed out by Indiana club members. As we mapped and fished these structures, our position and the great potential of this lake became more apparent. This is definitely a lake to spend more time on in the future. We learned a lot on this lake about using markers to map. This will be the program subject for our next Spoonplugging Study Group meeting on September 15.

Chase Klinesteker