

## **SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2005**

**12 attended the meeting. First was shown a video of Ted Walter and Mike Erhardt into a school of smallmouth bass on Allegan Lake during the 2000 Muskegon Spoonpluggers Network Outing in July. It was an unusually long activity period and was interesting to observe the changes in lure speed needed to make fish strike. From casting Spoonplugs to ½ ounce blade baits to ¼ ounce blade baits and them back to Spoonplugs! A few walleye even got in the picture and the position of the fish changed somewhat also. Over 50 fish were caught and released in about a 1 ½ hour period. The second part of the video was John Bales into some nice bass on Hess Lake. Spoonplugs could not be cast due to the soft mucky bottom so ½ ounce jump lures were used. When the action slowed, John went to a Carolina rigged worm and caught a number more fish. It is always a good learning experience watching accomplished Spoonpluggers following procedures correctly and seeing what can be accomplished.**

**Next we read the article “Making a Catch from a Casting Position” in the latest issue of “National Spoonplugger”(Jan-Feb '05) written by John Bales. He goes over the details needing attention when one runs across an adult fish that could be from a school. Positioning the boat, selecting the lure, and making the cast all need to be done quickly and accurately or the school may be lost. He describes the differences between a darkwater lake and one with clear water and how much more difficult it is to get numbers of fish in clear water. The article had some diagrams which we projected on the wall with the overhead projector. Also read and discussed was the article in the same issue titled “Anchoring” by Terry O’Malley. It detailed what must be done to quickly and accurately anchor your boat to take advantage of schooled up fish. Both of these articles should be studied so one is prepared to follow the correct procedures when the situation arises.**

**Chase mentioned that he will be giving seminars titled “Basic Spoonplugging” at the 2005 Sport, Fishing, and RV Show in Grand Rapids’ DeVos Place on Friday March 18 and Saturday March 19. Both seminars will be at 8:00PM on Fishing Stage D. An E-Mail with more detail will be sent out.**

**Next, as a followup to last meetings’ discussion on “What I Learned in 2004”, we went around the table and requested members to state some goals that they wish to accomplish in 2005. Some of the goals were:**

**“Concentrate more on learning structure”**

**“Fish more new lakes”**

**“Do a final pass on each structure”**

**“Fish deeper, from the shallows to as deep as the structure goes”**

**“Follow Spoonplugging procedures more closely”**

**“Fish the Grand River more”**

**“Do more mapping with the depth sounder first”**

**It is important to have goals for your fishing as it helps us move forward in the learning process. Have you set any goals for yourself yet?**

**Don Stephens brought a video made by Don Dixon showing river rigging techniques in the Winnipeg River at Minaki, Ontario. Heavy current and deep breaklines to 50+ feet were fished with wire line, heavy weights, and floating lures. Numbers of large walleye were taken. This is the technique many Lunker Hunters use in the Detroit River in spring to catch good walleye.**

**Chase Klinesteker**