

SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP JUNE 16, 2005

11 attended the meeting. Welcome to John Smith who attended for the first time. John does a lot of flyfishing but he became interested in what we do after hearing a talk on Spoonplugging at the Izaak Walton League given by Chase. We hope he will continue to join us.

The fishing reports were gone over first. Russ Headworth and Jack Clark both have fished the Grand River but the water has been high and fishing was slow. Clarence Allen fished Camp Lake recently and got 12 bluegill to 9 inches. Roger Bouwkamp was fishing in Canada and they got fewer walleye than usual but they averaged a little larger. There was an early spawn but they caught many pike. Roger also fished Mona Lake and got some sheepshead and smallmouth. On one structure with deeper features he caught 2 smallmouth over 4 pounds and had a big fish biteoff. Charlie Meyers and Don Stephens fished Mona Lake and they caught a 6 pound catfish, 4 drum to 8 pounds, and a 30 inch pike. Don and Mike Dordan fished Spring Lake and said it has good water color now. Big drum, a 31 inch pike, some walleye and several bass were caught there. Riley Rogers has been fishing Big Pine Island Lake and limiting out on bluegill. John Smith fished the Muskegon River and caught 25 trout to 15 inches on flies. John Bouws has been getting some drum from Lake Macatawa. Speaking of Lake "Mac", John lives on the lake and has invited us to have an outing there and stop in to his house for a break. The morning of Saturday August 27 was set up as an outing date there. Details will come later.

Fliers were passed out for the Muskegon Outing (July 20-24 at Fishermans' Landing Campground). It is recommended that they be passed out to friends that might be interested or put on bulletin boards to inform others. If you want more, contact Chase. Also, the Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers Outing will be August 11-14. This is a great outing to attend, with good fishing lakes and much to be learned from the many top Spoonpluggers in that club. Let's try to get a good number from our club to go there. Chase K., Don S., and Roger B. are considering attending so far. Jeri Perry sent a note in the last issue of "National Spoonplugger" mentioning that Buck has been diagnosed with Alzheimers disease. It is difficult to see such a great mind and person become that way, even at 90 years old. Keep them in your prayers. Buck had the foresight to provide for the continuance of the lure manufacturing, national newsletter, and teaching of Spoonplugging in the same manner after he stepped down, but there will be challenges. Jeri requested that we do all we can to spread the word about Spoonplugging.

The program subject was mapping of structure. Don Stephens read some entries from the website: Spoonpluggers.net. He highly recommends that we check it out regularly since several top Spoonpluggers comment and answer questions there. It was also mentioned that Spoonplugging equipment and lures can be purchased from Bucks' Baits website: BuckPerry.com. In town they are available from Terry Velting or Al and Bobs' Sports. Original map drawings by Don Dixon and Terry O'Malley of specific structures were passed around to be examined. It was noted that we don't have to be that neat or precise. You draw maps for your own benefit, not to show to others. The video was a portion of one titled "Buck Talks Mapping" from Bucks Baits. It stated that mapping is the key to interpretation (determining where on a structure the fish will contact and be located). Natural lakes are relatively easy to map and interpret. Reservoirs are the "teacher" because they have such a diversity of structure types available to the fish. It is important to put it on paper—to draw. Interpretation starts in deep water, the channel or home of the fish. Good water color is the #1 factor to look for. Mapping tools include trolling rod reel and line, boat, motor, markers, lures, and pencil and paper. Contour maps and depth sounder are helpful aids. Roger, Chase, and Terry got up and drew structures on the dry-erase board to show how it is done. No one else volunteered to get up and draw. The question was asked: "How many routinely draw maps of the structures they fish?" and no one raised their hand. Where the fish are is more important than anything else, and structure is our guide. We are missing a great opportunity to get better in our fishing if we don't draw.

Chase Klinesteker