

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING DECEMBER 7, 2006

Welcome to guests Jack Bright, John Smith, and Chet Garber. We hope they will come and join us in the future. "Guest Night" was a success. New faces and new ideas are what keep our club going forward.

FISHING REPORTS

John Stepanovitch has a place on Lower Herring Lake and reported getting into a school of bass. He was casting a blade bait and landed a 20 inch smallmouth and had 2 other nice ones that came off in the same spot. John has become more familiar with the lakes' structure since he has been studying Spoonplugging. He brought a few lake map copies for the members to see. Nice job, John! Roger Bouwkamp fished the Grand River with Chase and caught an 18 pound flathead catfish. He fished Big Pine Island again but could only get a 24 inch pike. There doesn't seem to be any hard areas in deep water for the fish to relate to. On Campau Lake he got a 39 inch muskie (14 ½ pounds) casting a blade bait while anchored on a turn in the weedline. He also fished Morrison Lake in a warm rain and caught 15 bass to 17 inches casting jump lures. The short jump that he was catching them on previously did not work so he increased the speed to a high fast jump and began catching fish (speed control!). Jack Clark reported he got 3 steelhead in two trips with Carl Erickson on the Grand River. Chase reported getting catfish, bass, and pike on the Grand River with the best results on one trip when 2 steelhead were caught. Chet Garber fishes Croton Pond for bass and reported getting a 43 ½ inch pike where it narrows down to the river. A 39 and a 40 inch pike were also caught on other trips. Those are some trophy pike! Charlie Myers and Don Stephens have been fishing the Grand River a lot for Steelhead and getting good fish close to home. Charlie says he has landed 10 steelies this fall. He reports that Noon to 1PM seems to be the best time for fish activity. John Bales' fishing report is in the recent edition (Nov-Dec) of "National Spoonplugger" newsletter where he and Mike Brown in 3 days this fall caught 85 smallmouth from Lake Erie and 15 of them were 5 pounds or larger! He describes a new twist on casting #800 Spoonplugs that was very effective. Check it out! Those without a subscription can get it at: buckperry.com.

MEETING

President Charlie reported that the Valentines dinner has been set up for February 9 at Branns' Restaurant on 28th Street across from Meijers. We will need 25 people or we will pay a \$50. room fee. Cost will be \$20. per person and social time will begin at 6PM. Many thanks to Mike Dordan for setting this up. Any contributions or solicitations for door prizes would help. Also, Mike is working on a promotional pamphlet for our club that we might distribute at Chases' seminar or the Ikes booth at the Sports Show March 15-18 at Devos Place. Put it on your calendar to attend, as it is the biggest and best fishing show in the area. A June 8-10 outing is planned for Manistee Lake, where we will stay at a nearby motel and fish together. More details will come later. We are planning to have John Bales give an April seminar here at Leisure Village. Saturday April 21, 2007 was picked but we will have to OK it with John first, and Jack Clark will have to check with Leisure Village about a reservation. Bob Streck discussed the proposed hunting and fishing liscense fee increase, which may be substantial. E-Mail Bob (rstrek@aol.com) or check the DNR for more info on that. \$15. annual Lunker Hunter membership dues can be paid to Roger at the next meeting on January 4, 2007. Thanks again to Charlie for bringing the delicious pies and donuts for snacks.

Jim VanAsselt is one tough bird! One person at University Hospital in Ann Arbor said that when he came in with the aortic aneurism, they gave him about a 1% chance to survive! Don, Charlie, and Jack have visited him at home and he is gaining strength every day, but full recovery will be quite a while, so cards and visits would be nice.

1ST PROGRAM

Jack Clarks' program was on "Care and Maintenance of Penn 109s'", although many of his comments applied to all types of reels. He felt that many people grease and oil their reels too much, leading to poor performance and problems. Minimal amounts of a fine quality oil (eg 3 in 1) are recommended. He uses a needle oiler to place a fraction of a drop in areas needing it, such as the spring-BB spots on a 109. First, he says to clean out the old grease and oil. This is done using an old toothbrush and clear solvent that evaporates, such as white spirits, dry cleaning solvent, or disc brake parts cleaner. Jack proceeded to quickly disassemble a Penn 109 right there to show us how (picture attached). All the old heavy grease and oil will gum up the gears and drags so things work poorly or not at all. He especially emphasized that the 109 drags should be free of oil, and when too much oil is put in the oiling holes, it leaks down to the drags, which causes deterioration of the fiber washers and failure of the drag. The only part of the 109 that needs a little more oil is the level wind screw, which is very accessible. Jack handed out sheets on Penn Reel Parts, Drag Assembly, and creating a smooth drag (very important in playing big fish!). He recommends we replace the old fiber drag washers with the new Teflon ones, available on the Internet at: smoothdrag.com, and that we don't use any grease on a 109, just a small amount of light oil. Parts diagrams are available on that site also. One part besides the drags and level wind screws that often has problems in the 109 is the ratchet gear for the anti-reverse dogleg that wears. He mentioned using a 3/4 file to flatten and sharpen the gears so they will work again. All were very attentive to this informative program. Thanks, Jack!!

2nd PROGRAM

"Fishing Rivers" was the program title and we began by reading a short section in Buck Perrys' book about rivers (pages 154-156). We discussed about how the main structures in a river are on the outside bends because that is where the deepest water is and the bottom is most different. Observing terrain (bars, rocks, wingdams, etc.) and current breaks on the water surface are key to finding areas where to concentrate your fishing. Trolling is most efficient during warm weather and normal water levels. During highwater and cold weather season, fish are often located out of the heavy current in slackwater and flooded areas. Casting is usually more productive then. Look for breaks and breaklines leading to these areas.

Next, Don Stephens talked about how he and Charlie Myers have caught good numbers of steelhead trout this fall in the Grand River. Water levels have been high and current fast this fall so they used depth and speed controls that applied well to the situation. Slow crankbaits worked slipping downstream seemed to be effective for them. Floating T-4 Flatfish trolled against the current while slipping downstream gave the proper very slow speed needed against the heavy current, and depth was controlled by line length. Don feels that reading the current breaks is critical to knowing where to put your lure. Don leaves the line tags on the leader knot to help deflect the many leaves in the river. If a steelhead is hooked, he likes to drop anchor to keep better control of the fish. Don passed out an information sheet on the subject. Well done, Don! Those who don't join us at the meetings are missing a lot of information!

To finish, Chase drew a map on a dry-erase board of the structure in the Grand River where he caught a steelhead, and described the trolling he did with Spoonplugs on previous trips to map and interpret it first.

Chase Klinesteker