

SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP JUNE 15, 2006

FISHING REPORTS

Tom Moore reported catching good numbers of crappie in Fremont Lake on jigs in 8-12 feet. One was only ½ inch short of the 14 inch Master Angler size. Bob Streck fished Hardy Pond with his grandson but had problems with many floating weeds and slow fishing. He did catch 25 panfish from Muskegon Lake in the Bear Lake Channel area. Salmon have been slow in Lake Michigan recently. Look for a breeze off shore to bring colder water and the fish closer in. Russ Noom got 17 bluegills from Camp Lake in 16 feet of water. Roger Bouwkamp recently got back from a Canadian fishing trip. He caught lots of walleye with the largest 24 inches. Most of the walleye were related to the weeds, which went to 12 feet. Slow speeds in the morning and evening produced most of the fish. His biggest thrill was when a 33 inch pike grabbed a walleye he had on his line! Don Stephens took his grandson to Muskegon Lake where they landed a 10 ½ pound drum, 2 nice bass, and some panfish. Don and Mike Dordan fished White Lake Monday where they got 3 keeper pike and 4 decent bass, all in the shallow east end on Spoonplugs.

PROGRAM

The subject was “Weeds” and we watched about an hour of Buck Perrys’ videotape #6 from his lecture on weeds from the 1992 Spoonpluggers Jamboree. This was one of his most informative tapes, especially for here up North where we encounter lots of weeds. Much emphasis was put on observing terrain (“slick” water, weedlines and points, reeds, underwater islands, etc.). From that we can decipher whether the bottom is muck or hard sand, where there are weeds under the water, which direction the current flowed around a reed island, the location of saddles, areas with deep water near shore, and much more information. Many slides shown in the program were examples of guidelines developed by Mr. Perry to help us be more successful in our fishing. These guidelines are facts about fish that help us organize and coordinate what action we must take to result in better catches. There are many guidelines in Mr Perrys written material, and by becoming familiar with them all, we can select those which apply to the situation at hand to help us determine what we must DO to make a catch. Good water color is considered the #1 guideline to better catches. Fish movement is along the weedline base. When casting weedlines, anchor close to the weeds. When trolling, use as many markers as will keep you out of the weeds. All trolling passes outside of the weedline must be straight. When there is little depth increase beyond the weeds, the home of the fish is in the weeds. In a shallow weedy lake, when the fish become active they move to the edge of the weeds in small clear areas. If fish are caught off weed points, it is best to cast pocket areas between points. Different kinds of weeds can be breaks that fish will pause at during migration. Fish migrations will not go beyond an inside turn of a weedline. The preceding statements are a few Spoonplugging Guidelines relating to weeds. Becoming familiar with these and many more guidelines requires study and much time on the water experiencing them. This is a fun and exciting time when we are learning and getting better and better at catching fish. All the guidelines are in bold print in Mr Perrys’ book “Spoonplugging—Your Guide to Lunker Catches”. Pay attention and use them on every trip!!

SATURDAY OUTING UPDATE

Saturday June 17, 2 boats and 4 people showed up. 7 bass, 4 pike, 1 drum, and an 18 inch walleye were caught trolling Spoonplugs from 3-12 feet. Casting was not productive. The Indian Channel launch on the Grand River was not crowded and it is only ½ hour from Plainfield avenue. Cell phones were used to communicate between boats. It was a hot 90+ degree day in town, but a cooling breeze off Lake Michigan kept us comfortable. No “lunkers” were caught, but the trip was enjoyed by all, and the short-notice, informal outing seems to be just the ticket!

Chase Klinesteker

