

SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP MEETING OCTOBER 19, 2006

FISHING REPORTS

Don Stephens fished the Grand River near the Rogue and got one steelhead on October 17. He is working with different lures and techniques to get slower speeds and better depth control in the heavy current (Update- he has gotten 3 more since the meeting and says that now through November is the best time to fish steelhead). Charlie Meyers says that Mona Lake is slow but that he did catch a 9 pound catfish going 5-6 mph. Roger Bouwkamp has been fishing Big Pine Island Lake and catching good pike to 35 inches and a number of bass. The weedline there is hard to follow and the structures are fairly complex, so Roger recommends the use of markers and trolling passes to map the structures first. Roger has caught many nice fish this fall and will be explaining what he does at the next Lunker Hunter-Study Group combination meeting on November 2 (see: MEETING). John Stepanovitch caught a 20 inch smallmouth and lost a nice pike on Lower Herring Lake recently.

MEETING

Charlie Meyers, the new President of Lunker Hunters, suggested we look into combining our Study Group meetings with the Lunker Hunters on the first Thursday of the month. As mentioned before, Lunker Hunters is a Spoonplugging club with its' basis rooted in Buck Perrys' study material. A number of members have not been able to make 2 meetings a month and our attendance has been down somewhat. A discussion took place with the primary concern being a continued desire to study and discuss Buck Perrys' written material. This might get lost with the more varied programming of Lunker Hunters. Terry Velting suggested that we apply more Spoonplugging Guidelines to the fishing situations that we do encounter. Roger suggested that since the new president is planning on a shorter, concise program and meeting for Lunker Hunters (7:00 to 8:30PM), the Study Group could have a ½ hour program after that and those needing to leave before could do so. This idea met with unanimous approval, and we will try out the combination meeting beginning November 2. One suggestion was that we call ourselves the Lunker Hunter Spoonpluggers.

PROGRAM

“Interpretation of Structure” was the program subject, which was inspired by the article written by Buck Perry in the Sept./Oct. 06 “National Spoonplugger”. We went around the room asking what interpretation meant to each. It involves accurately drawn maps, knowledge of weather and water effects on fish, types of structures, seasonal considerations, wind, terrain, bottom hardness and consistency, breaks present, depths, information from tools we use (lures, contour maps, depth sounders), and much more. The simplest definition of interpretation Mr. Perry used was to “figure out” a situation and arrive at the fish. The final interpretation of a structure is accomplished by catching fish! One definition was “the knowledge to put you in a position to catch fish”. Of primary importance is the knowledge we gain about the structure by using proper procedures in lure presentation. The article states: “One of the best ways to improve mapping and interpretation is to make a calculated guess as to what is present before checking it”. Because fish, water, weather, lakes, seasons, and structures vary in each situation, the challenge is to take the knowledge we have and adapt it to the situation at hand. This is why Mr. Perry has said that we never stop learning.

Chase Klinesteker