

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING AUGUST 2, 2007

FISHING REPORTS

Roger Bouwkamp got several nice pike to 40 inches from Wabasis Lake recently, fishing with his son. He passed around some very impressive pictures. The depth control was different from what he had expected, but he arrived at it by following Spoonplugging procedures. He also fished Winfield and Cowden Lakes and is not afraid to tackle new waters. Buck Perry says that is a key element in ones' growth as a fisherman. Don Stephens and Mike Dordan checked out Mona Lake again, but this time did not get any walleyes. They did, however, catch a number of pike, drum, bass, and catfish---not exactly a failed trip! John Smith fished with Chase on Mona Lake for a training session about 3 weeks ago. 2 walleyes and 5 bass "got in the way", but John said he learned a lot anyway! John has also fished the Muskegon and Flat rivers for smallmouth and caught some nice fish. Ron Vance was fishing up on Indian Lake near Manistique in the UP for 5 weeks. Fishing was tough and only small fish were caught by all fishermen there. Many times shallow, clear lakes can really turn off due to the weather (water color, water color, water color!). Tom Moore can't fish due to an injured thumb, but he reported hearing about walleyes being caught in the Grand River near the Gravel Pits. He also reported there is a little water color (7 feet visibility) in Fremont lake now that might improve the fishing. Clarence Allen said his bluegill fishing has been fairly slow. He only got 15 his last trip, and had to work hard for them. Bob Strek has gotten some panfish from Muskegon Lake and caught some salmon in Lake Michigan out of Grand Haven. He thinks the salmon this year are bigger, but fewer in number than last year, and are starting to color up some already. Charlie Myers decided to fish Camp Lake more because it is close to him. He has caught several pike up to 12 pounds there. Larry Simonsen fished Spring Lake with Chase during the Muskegon Outing and they caught a 19 inch smallmouth there that jumped about 5 feet in the air! It hit a 6-9 Spoonplug right after the speed was picked up to about 5 mph. 3 drum to 5 lbs, a 17 inch walleye, and 4 largemouth bass were also boated. Terry Velting fished Indian Lakes north of Grand Rapids and got 10 bass to 18 inches and 4 pike. It is a shallow weedy lake, and the productive lure presentation was a weedless jig.

MEETING

The report on Dave Harding was that his heart bypass operation went well, but that he still has a fair amount of pain. We will keep him in our thoughts and wish him a quick recovery. The question was brought up if we wanted a fall outing. Six raised their hands that they would be interested. Bert Lepay invited us up to his resort in the Lake Ann area and Terry Velting will check into that option and get back to Charlie. A tentative date of September 28-30 was picked. Another option was Lake Saint Claire. Chase passed around a copy of the Leoni Spoonpluggers newsletter. Access to this as well as the Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers newsletter comes along with the subscription to "The National Spoonplugger" put out by Jeri Pery and Terry O'Malley. Don't forget to renew your subscription! Send \$29. to: "National Spoonpluggers, LLC, 255 Kerda St, Taylorsville, NC 28681. There is a North Carolina Spoonpluggers Outing Sept 6-8,

2007. Contact Chase for more info. Chase noted that Don Stephens had a very informative article in the latest “National Spoonplugger” titled “Walleyes Love Spoonplugs”. Check it out! Don and Jim VanAsselt have the Youth Tournament on Mona Lake all planned, and it looks like a good number will be there.

1st PROGRAM

This was a discussion on what we learned at the Spoonplugging Network Outings. Charlie talked about visiting with Spoonplugging Instructors John Bales and John Zaborny and how they emphasized the exploring of a lake, looking for something different (Buck Perry defines structure as “the bottom of the lake that is different from the surrounding area”). They stated that structure is found by trolling the shallows, and you must have an open mind and be willing to check out anything unusual. Bales had pointed out a productive “ditch” in the NE corner of Muskegon Lake that Charlie was not even aware of (and Charlie knows MUCH about that lakes’ structure). Some insights were gained also on how to fish the 30 foot hump in front of Bear Lake Channel. Roger learned from Scott Duff of the Illinois Spoonpluggers about using very slow speed with blade baits. When fish are very inactive, he lets the lure lie still on the bottom for several seconds between hops to give the fish enough time to react. At the Leoni Outing in June, Tom Moore had talked to Spoonplugging Instructor Jerry Borst from Illinois and learned about his use of 3-way rigs in cold season fishing. Using the proper sized Spoonplug to reach and hold the desired depth, he runs a 3-way above and back with a slower floating lure to trigger strikes of less active fish. His catches of trout and salmon have been very impressive (see Spoonpluggers Forum Online). At the Muskegon Outing several members talked about learning from Joe Cinadr (OH) when he drew a map of the structure under Mona Lakes’ Henry Street Bridge, and how he made trolling passes to catch a number of nice fish. All in all, everyone was positive about the opportunity to attend Spoonplugging outings for people who are serious about their fishing.

2nd PROGRAM

A “Buck Sez” from the most recent “Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers” newsletter was read aloud. It was a question to Buck Perry of why he had written so much study material covering subjects from many different angles. His reply was that many fisherman could not easily grasp the basics of Spoonplugging, due to what others were saying or doing. They had doubts and unanswered questions. His writings were designed to answer those questions and make fishermen more aware of fishing facts. However, some became confused reading all the material. Then Buck stated: “When all is said and done, all that was ever needed was the Spoonpluggers Basic Guideline”. This guideline is a one-page statement of the facts about fish behavior, and what we need to do to catch them. A copy of the guideline was passed out to those interested. A short piece on drawing maps was read, including a list of contents of a hand-drawn map, but time was short and this is too important a subject to not spend enough time on, so we will have this program at a future date.

Chase Klinesteker