

# LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

## FISHING REPORTS

John Stepanovitch said that Lower Herring Lake is getting some slight color now. He has been fishing it deeper and hung into a "freight train" fish that he fought for 15 minutes and never saw. These situations create lasting memories and help us to exercise our imaginations! Jim VanAsselt fished Wabasis Lake and caught 4 pike and a 16 inch bass. He also said he relocated generous portions of the weeds there! John Smith caught several smallmouth on the Flat River as well as 3 walleyes on the Grand River. Clarence Allen caught 31 bluegills on a small private lake and felt things were picking up. Bob Streck has been fishing salmon out of Grand Haven 2 or 3 times a week and getting 1-4 fish per time. Now the fish seem to be off Port Sheldon. Salmon have been coming into the rivers for about 3 weeks now with most being caught at night. He noted that a lot of fishing boats in an area will cause the fishing to tail off and it may pick up again after the boats leave. In Muskegon Lake there were boats anchored near the mouth of the channel vertical jigging for salmon. Roger Bouwkamp fished Gun Lake and caught 3 pike and 3 good bass. He reported that the pike in Wabasis Lake were slower now. Two weeks ago he caught a 37 inch pike there. He has been fishing Winfield Lake by Pierson, MI. He caught a 32 inch pike there and hooked a large bass that was 6-7 pounds but lost it at the boat. He was walking his lure on structure in 17 to 18 feet, and when it ran free, he speeded up and the fish hit. Charlie Myers fished Wabasis with Roger and they caught 15 pike to 34 inches and 4 bass to 19 inches. Nice going, guys! You make one knowledgeable (and formidable) fishing team! Charlie fished the Muskegon rivermouth last Saturday and got 3 salmon. Terry Velting talked to Grant Hendrickson who has been fishing Muskegon and White Lakes and catching fish on the 22-23 foot breakline/thermocline using jigging spoons.

## MEETING

Welcome to Dan Plummer who visited our meeting for the first time. He does a lot of bass fishing and was very interested in our program. The September 27-29 Outing was discussed. We had 2 options. Bert Lappe offered for us to come up to his Bed and Breakfast on a lake near Traverse City and John Stepanovitch said that the cabin he uses on Lower Herring Lake near Arcadia is available that weekend also. There was a little interest in both places. Contact Terry Velting for more details on the Traverse area (249-0744) or John about Lower Herring Lake (459-7751). It probably wouldn't hurt to have a few attend each, then we would have more varied fishing reports! Call soon if you are interested.

## PROGRAM

Charlie Myers led a discussion on what to do to catch fish on clear weedy lakes. He projected on the wall a contour map of Wabasis Lake where he and other Lunker Hunters have caught some nice pike this summer. Wabasis has weeds to 16 feet with many structures, as well as an inside weedline. A number of productive structures were pointed out on the map. Shorter lines were recommended, as well as using markers for trolling passes. He also mentioned using a flasher depth sounder because it is quicker to respond to depth changes when trolling a weedline. Some use wire line or even file sharp the Spoonplug lip to cut weeds better. For those with 2 depth sounders, a front mounted transducer can give slightly quicker indication of the weeds. When trolling the weedline, the goal is to get as close to the weeds as possible without continually fouling in them. Charlie mentioned that trolling a deep weedline is not recommended for beginning Spoonpluggers. The mechanics of presenting Spoonplugs must be well practiced on lakes with hard weed-free bottoms before any attempt is made to troll deep weeds, or one will give up on Spoonplugging out of frustration. Mona and Macatawa are 2 excellent lakes to practice on. Roger also got up and pointed out his favorite areas on the map. He said his best action has been in the afternoon from 2-6PM. His largest pike there this summer was 37 inches, and he has fished Wabasis 15 times this year and hasn't been "skunked" yet! It was emphasized that the person running the motor should have his rod on the inside against the weeds for better control. Many thanks to Charlie and Roger for some great fishing information!

Chase Klinesterker

