

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2007

FISHING REPORTS

Pretty slim! The nasty weather lately and beginning ice formation has slowed things down. Charlie Myers reported he went out on the Grand River January 12 but no steelhead. John Stepanovitch reported hearing about big perch being caught up north at Arcadia on shrimp. Roger Bouwkamp reported catching some nice muskies in local waters just before it iced up, trolling #100 and #800 Spoonplugs down 20 to 30 feet. Despite the cold water (34 degrees), the speed was about 3 mph.

MEETING

13 members attended. The Valentines dinner is coming up this Friday, February 9. It will be at Branns' Restaurant on 28th Street at 6:00PM. Cost is \$20. per person. Make sure you contact Mike Dordan at dordan@iserv.net to tell him if you are coming. Chase made up a poster and some tickets for the Bales seminar on April 21. President Charlie Myers will get some poster copies made. Cal Lamoreaux brought some nautical maps he got off a site on the Internet which looked very interesting. Check out Maptech.com. Thanks, Cal! The Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar will be on Saturday, March 17 2007. Check with Don or Charlie if you are interested in going. The next club meeting will be Thursday March 1, and Bob Streck will give the first program on fishing the river for winter and spring steelhead. There will be no Board Meeting February 9 as it is the same day as the Valentines Dinner.

5 Lunker Hunters attended the funeral of Dean Arnold at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on January 27. It was a very nice tribute to one of our clubs' Founding Fathers, and had a definite leaning towards his fishing. Deans' 51 ½ inch, 36 pound Hybrid Musky (largest in the state in 1990) was up front at the service, along with a flower arrangement from the club. Dean was one of the kindest and gentlest persons I have ever known, and he was a huge contributor to the Lunker Hunters over many, many years.

PROGRAM #1

Winter is a good time to review and think about how we could improve our fishing for the coming year. Charlie Myers presented a program on "Mental Attitude" in which he listed 5 questions for us to ask ourselves.

- 1). Do I attribute all my fishing successes and failures to anything but depth and speed? Did I get sidetracked, fall into a rut, have a favorite depth and speed, or put my faith in "magic lures"?
- 2). Do I have a teachable attitude? Am I willing to accept others' comments or do I "shoot the messenger"? He recommends we swallow our pride and ask others we respect to comment on our procedures.
- 3). Am I willing to experience short term failure in order to achieve long term success? Am I willing to try new waters or techniques? Charlie described how he never liked to fish rivers in the past until he recently fished on the Grand River for steelhead. There

were many frustrating trips before he caught his first steelhead but now he is successful there and thoroughly enjoys this kind of fishing. He feels the knowledge gained fishing rivers has made him a better fisherman on all waters.

4). When new members join the club, am I willing to take them out on the water and show them what I have learned? Buck Perry emphasized that you really begin learning when you teach others.

5). Am I willing to put forth the effort necessary to become a better fisherman? Practice and experience on the water helps build confidence. A good dose of persistence is necessary to become an above average fisherman (or anything else). Many thanks to Charlie for a program that really made us think!

PROGRAM #2

The second program was titled: "Using Speed to Trigger Fish" and was put on by Chase to gather ideas for his seminars at the DeVos Place Sport and RV Show March 15-18, 2007. Many ideas were brought up, questions asked, and subjects discussed. What is speed control and how important is it? What "triggers" fish to strike? How does fish activity level relate to speed? Do we need to both cast and troll, and how do we check speeds on each? How important is the "walk"? How does depth affect the speeds to be checked? How do we know which speed to use? Do different species react to different speeds? Can we "wake fish up" to take faster speeds? How are lure speeds related to the seasons? What are the fastest and slowest speeds that will "trigger" fish to strike? What effect does changing the speed have? What factors affect the speed needed to trigger strikes and which 2 are most important? Are faster speeds better for bigger fish? These and other questions were gone over, and much interest was created. There is not enough space to cover it all here, but it will be covered at the Sport and RV Show seminar March 17th or 18th. Plan on attending one. More details will come in a future E-Mail.

Chase Klinesteker