

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING JULY 5, 2007

FISHING REPORTS

Don Stephens is still getting some walleye from Mona Lake trolling #200 and #250 Spoonplugs as well as some Smallmouth bass to 3 pounds. 10AM to noon seemed to be the best time for fish activity. Don and Mike Dordan fished Paw Paw Lake recently. No fish were caught until around 2:00PM when the pike became active and they caught 8 fish 27 to 31 inches in less than 2 hours trolling Spoonplugs. To locate the best areas, they used a map of the structures there drawn by Terry O'Malley from back in the 1960s'. John Stepanovitch reported hooking another steelhead in Lower Herring Lake, and that he enjoyed fishing with other Lunker Hunters at the Manistee Outing in that area. Jim VanAsselt fished Hess lake and caught 4 bass on 500 and 400 Spoonplugs trolling the shallows. Dave Harding fished Saginaw Bay in the West Michigan Walleye Club Tournament. They fished 3 miles out in 31 feet of water and caught many fish. 6 fish were in the boat before 8AM and they did a lot of culling. Clarence Allen caught 17 nice bluegill two weeks ago in 14 to 16 feet of water. He went back a week later, but results were slimmer then. John Smith enjoys fishing the Flat River and recently caught 3 nice smallmouth there. Roger Bouwkamp was surprised to catch a 35 inch pike from Morrison Lake casting a Spoonplug, since pike are not caught there often. He also caught 4 largemouth bass there from 18 to 20 inches. While fishing Mona Lake, he caught 23 walleye in 2 days trolling #400 Spoonplugs, and while fishing Big Pine Island Lake, he got a 34 inch pike and several smaller ones. An E-Mail report from Ron Vance in the U.P. said that there were some storms and the mayfly hatch was on so the fishing was off some. Since the Manistee Outing, Chase fished Reeds, Lake Michigan, Spring, Hess, and Morrison, with a few nice fish boated. Charlie Myers fished Mona Lake with 1 good day and 1 bad day. In 2 trips to Hess Lake, he caught a few fish, but commented that we were spoiled by the great fishing there in the past, and he emphasized that we should not be fishing "memories" in our lure presentation, but follow proper procedures. Charlie stopped at Camp Lake on a bright cold front day just to check out the structure, not expecting to catch anything due to the weather conditions. On his first pass on structure he caught a 27 inch pike and several other pike after that. He reminded us not to tell the fish that they won't be active! As you can tell from this report, the Michigan summer fishing season is in full swing, and should be good for the Muskegon Spoonplugging Outing July 18-22 at Fishermans' Landing.

MEETING

13 attended the meeting. The Muskegon Outing was discussed. Terry Velting will be there with his "Rolling Tackle Shop". Mike and Nyann Dordan have the menu set up for the Saturday (July 21) meal at 6:00PM. Donations of fish would be appreciated. An appetizer, corn on the cob, green beans, and cake and ice cream is also on the menu. The great specialty coffees we had last year will also be there. Lunker Hunters are encouraged to come about 5:00 to help set up. Jim VanAsselt reported that the Youth Outing on Mona Lake is scheduled for Saturday, August 4 at the Mona Lake Boat Club. Don, Roger, Chase, Charlie, Jack, and Jim are planning on bringing boats so far. More details later. A new list of over 400 lake maps available to club members was passed around. Contact Ron Vance if you would like a map of a particular lake. Don Stephens read a thank-you note from Jim Stephens' wife thanking us for the flowers at the funeral.

FIRST PROGRAM

Roger reported on his fishing trip to Esnage Lake in Canada in the first part of June. It is north of Wawa about 50 miles. He has generally done well there and has fished it since 1994, but stated that his standards/goals change as he learns more about the lake and fishing in general. It is a reservoir 26 miles long with 3 deeper holes and lots of structure. It was formed by damming and raising the water level of a chain of 3 lakes by 12 feet. It is big open water with rocks, stumps, trees, and sand. Some methods used were jigs and minnows, blade baits, and trolling Spoonplugs. In the past, they had a slot limit, but now you can only keep 1 walleye over 21 inches and 3 under that. Roger feels that this has improved the number of larger fish available to catch. 3 main rivers flow into the lake and he discovered some very good structure at their entrance to the lake. Locating and following old river channels in these areas helped his son catch 2 walleyes, 26 and 30 inches, which are trophies in any book! The base breakline was 26 to 30 feet, and he caught several pike running it with Spoonplugs and wire. The larger walleye seemed to be caught around 10-20 feet, where the smaller ones were caught down 28 to 32 feet. The largest pike were caught in the shallow weedbeds. As Buck Perry has reminded us, these seeming contradictions do not have to be explained why. Weather, seasonal, and other factors are very complex. How fish behave is most important in helping us present lures. Mr Perrys' material gives us excellent guidelines in both fish behavior and presentation of lures. The water temperature at that time was 54 degrees. Spawning goes by the weather, not by the calendar. Roger emphasized that it is important to follow our lure presentation procedures---start trolling the shallows and work your way down---to fish thoroughly and cover all possibilities. Many thanks to Roger for an informative and insightful program.

SECOND PROGRAM

It was decided to do the second program on the structures of 3 lakes where some of the fish were caught. Contour maps of Morrison, Hess, and Mona Lakes were projected on the wall with our overhead projector. Several members got up and pointed out structures on the maps where they caught fish. This is the kind of sharing of information typical of a Spoonplugger, and that makes me proud to be one!

Chase Klinesteker