

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS' MEETING MAY 3, 2007

FISHING REPORT

Roger Bouwkamp fished Murry Lake recently and lost 2 fish trolling 800 Spoonplugs in 26-32 feet of water. He found some short deep weeds 20 feet down and some big marks in 35 to 50 feet. Jim VanAsselt fished the Grand River with Don Stephens and caught 5 bass and 1 pike trolling Spoonplugs. On a trip to Myrtle Beach, John Stepanovitch stopped in Taylorsville and had a nice visit with Jeri Perry. He saw some of Bucks "Museum" and brought back some written material that he shared with us. Riley Rogers caught 2 steelhead on the Grand River two weeks ago, but the run may be about over by now. Don Stephens has made several trips to the Grand River this spring, including mapping some holes by trolling the first three sizes of Spoonplugs. He commented on how much more he knows about the river bottom structure after he did that, especially on where he would stop and cast. Mike Dordan reported that he explored Brooks Lake (near Hess Lake) and found 2 deepwater holes of 14 and 16 feet. Using that as a guide, he trolled and caught 2 bass in the 6-9 foot depths. Charlie Myers fished the Grand River below the Rogue last Monday and caught 2 steelhead and 1 bass.

MEETING

17 attended the meeting, the largest in quite a while! John Bales really put a fire under our group! Welcome to Art Lewis, who attended for the first time and joined the club. President Charlie Myers reported that the John Bales seminar was a big success with 40 attending. Expenses were covered with a bit left over for the club, and all reported enjoying the seminar. There was even talk of having John back again next year. The Spring Outing near Manistee on June 8-10 was discussed. 4 so far are planning to go. We will be staying at the Alpine Motor Lodge on US 31 north of Manistee. Call them at 231-889-4281 for reservations and check out their website at: www.alpinemotorlodge.com. John Bouws owns a cabin on Portage Lake about a mile from the lodge and has offered for us to have our fish fry at his cabin. Thanks, John! We will probably want to check out Portage Lake then also. We will still have the regular Lunker Hunter meeting on Thursday, June 7 here in Grand Rapids at Leisure Village.

The Muskegon Outing July 18-22 at Fishermans' Landing was discussed. The Dordans will plan on coordinating the Saturday evening meal. Chase will check into reserving the tent, and because of requests will repeat his Sports Show seminar "Using Speed to Trigger Fish" Friday evening about 8:30 at the Hospitality Tent. Call Deb Hawkins to see if you can still get a campground reservation at 231-726-6100. Plan on attending. This is always a great outing with a large variety of lakes to fish, species to catch, and friends to see.

PROGRAM

We went around the room and several commented on what they learned from John Bales' seminar. Don felt that John's springtime casting information was very helpful and he was eager to try it out. Charlie was amazed at the way John thinks about what to do on the water. If he sees something different, he will investigate it. Charlie described it as "thinking outside the box". Chase felt that John's thoughts and actions reflect the simplicity of Spoonpluggings' basic concepts, and that Spoonplugging concepts have always been "outside the box" of much of conventional thought in fishing. Mike Dordan brought up about how John approached his fishing on Muskegon Lake at last year's Muskegon outing---how he did things that most fishermen would not do, and came up successful! Roger emphasized learning to fish the best structure (situation), not just any structure. Larry said he learned the importance of fishing deeper when necessary because of the zebra mussels, even down to 60 feet! It was also mentioned that John sees much more than we do when he gets on the water. To improve on this, we need to pay better attention and gain as much on-the-water experience as possible.

After the break, the discussion continued. John always has casting rods, anchor, and markers at hand when trolling. The main goal of a Spoonplugger is to get into a school of adult fish and catch several on consecutive casts. We must keep them in a "frenzy" if we want to catch more, and time is of the essence. All of Bucks big catches (up to 49 in a row) were caught casting Spoonplugs from an anchored position. This must be done quickly and efficiently or the school is lost. And don't quit easily. An example was given where, after catching a big bass trolling, 4 different anchoring positions were tried before the school was located and several bass caught. Terry Velting mentioned that much mental discipline is needed to run the 3 small lures. Spoonplugging is not for everyone. Only those willing to put forth the effort will succeed. Terry O'Malley defines Spoonplugging as the "Ultimate in Fishing" because we target the largest fish of all species on all types of waters. It can't get much better than that!!

Chase Klinesteker