

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING JANUARY 3, 2008

FISHING REPORTS

Don Stephens has been on the Grand River a few times in December, but the steelhead were not very cooperative. He also fished Murry Lake with Charlie Myers. On Christmas Eve day, the ice came off Murry and they launched their boat and managed to catch a 32 inch pike. Roger Bouwkamp also fished Murry Lake in December. He had on and lost a very nice muskie as well as landing 36 and 40 inch muskies. Roger was fishing 24 to 28 feet deep and said that he had the whole lake to himself! (I wonder why?!)

MEETING

The election of officers went smoothly. Congratulations to Charlie Myers (President), Chase Klinesteker (Vice-President), and Roger Bouwkamp (Treasurer). The Valentines' Dinner plans for February 15 were cancelled. The date did not work out as only 6 or so couples could make it, even after many calls were made. Many thanks to Mike and Nyann Dordan for offering to set it up and organize it. This is a traditional "Thank You" to Lunker Hunter wives for putting up with our fishing escapades, and it is hard for us "Old Timers" to miss it. Maybe someone will come up with another idea. The Illinois Spoonplugger Winter Seminar will be coming up Saturday March 15. This is an excellent review of Spoonplugging concepts, Ideas, and questions answered. Four expressed interest in going. We will car pool for the trip. Contact Chase if you are interested. Roger Bouwkamp brought a large laminated map of Muskegon Lake that he had purchased online from Lakemaster at www.lakemap.com. These are excellent with some maps having 3 foot contours. Software is available with 175 Michigan lakemaps, some much more detailed than than DNR contour maps.

PROGRAM

The subject of the program was "Progressing In Your Fishing". We began by reading and discussing an excellent article by John Bales in the December issue of the "Northern Indiana Spoonplugger". The article emphasized that the more new lakes that we fish and the more structure situations that we study, the better fishermen we will become. Natural lakes are easy, with deep holes, bars, humps, and saddles. The learning is increased as we fish rivers, large lakes, and reservoirs. John reviewed his learning process while fishing Lake Erie, Detroit River, Lake Saint Clair, and the Saint Clair River. This is a huge area that required many trips and a number of years to become familiar with these waters, but John persisted, catching more and bigger fish as his knowledge increased. His great catches of walleye, Smallmouth, and muskies speak for themselves. Was all the time, study, and effort worth it? You bet!! There is never a point where you cannot learn more.

We then went around the room and asked members "What did you learn in your fishing for 2007?" Some of the answers included: understanding basics better, became more comfortable presenting lures, learned a lake more thoroughly, go deeper if only catching small fish, fish as tight as possible to the weeds, to start shallow and continue to go deeper if no fish, sometimes speeds of 6-7 mph are needed to get fish to strike, and to check both trolling and casting presentations on every trip. Some of the goals for 2008 included: to record in a fishing log, start mapping from the deepest water in the area, draw more structure maps, learn mapping better, follow Spoonplugging procedures more closely, spend more time on the water, learn how to take better linesights, pre-rigging casting rods to check different depths and speeds, learn to interpret structure better, have a presentation plan before getting on the water, and to study contour maps more closely to better interpret the situation.

All subjects of the items learned and the goals being set are covered thoroughly in Buck Perrys' written material, which most of us have read. Most are concepts we are familiar with. But reading knowledge and working knowledge are two different things. The on-the-water experience and time spent is necessary to achieve a working knowledge of the written material. This results when actions and decisions on the water come automatically without question. We all strive to get closer to that goal.

Chase Klinesteker