

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING MARCH 6, 2008

FISHING REPORTS

Chase visited the Sarasota Florida area recently for a week and got some fishing in. His trip with charter Captain Jack Ryan was very successful, where they landed around 40 fish of 8 different species and had a ball! Captain Jack is a longtime Spoonplugger who includes much of Buck Perrys' material in his fishing and seminars (seadogfishing.com). John Stepanovitch was in Costa Rica and managed to go fishing in the surf there a couple of times. He did report that casting Spoonplugs in the surf was not a good idea, and he learned to watch closely for incoming waves! Art Burke reported from the Grand Rapids Steelheaders that they were catching steelhead from the bank of the Grand River using small bright colored jigs and waxworms on light tackle. He heard of one fisherman landing 16 steelhead in 1 day. Also, some walleye were being taken at night there using slow working floating baits. Jim VanAsselt was up in the UP ice fishing for ciscoes, but didn't make it to the meeting to report details. There was a report that a recent fishing derby at Croton Pond produced a 51 inch pike! Talk about a lunker fish!

MEETING

12 attended the meeting. Chase reported that he will be giving a seminar at the DeVos Place Sport and RV Show titled: "Structure: Learning A Lake", and he encouraged those going to the show to stop by. The emphasis will be on how to learn, compare, and record structure details. Friday, March 14 at 7:00PM on Stage C, and Sunday, March 16 at 4:30PM on Stage D will be the times it is given. The Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar will be this Saturday March 15 at the Elk Grove Public Library. 5 members from our club will be going to this excellent learning experience. John Stepanovitch and John Bouws offered for the Lunker Hunters to have an outing at their cottages on portage and Lower Herring Lakes. The date was set for May 29, 30, and 31, with details to come later. Many thanks for the offer, guys!

1st PROGRAM

Roger Bouwkamp presented the program titled: "Do You Have What It Takes To Become A Spoonplugger?" He passed out a 2 page handout that listed the tools, attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors that will help improve your success as a Spoonplugger/Structure Fisherman (copy attached). The list began with getting and reading Buck Perrys' book "Spoonplugging", to the tools necessary to properly control your depth and speed while presenting lures and mapping structure. Without proper tools, any job is much more difficult. The last item on the first page listed "Confidence that you are going to catch fish". This is extremely important, because without belief in what you are doing, you will not persist. The evidence is there for that belief, from Mr Perrys' many huge catches out of "fished out" lakes, to the respect and honors he has received from professional fishermen and writers worldwide.

The second page included many ideas to help one improve their knowledge and fishing success. "Fish a lot, Have everything ready to use in the boat, Have a procedure to follow, Draw more maps, Teach others how to fish, Never assume where the fish are, Fish good water color, and, Relate all your fishing successes and failures to depth and speed". These were only a few of the suggestions mentioned. Most of them can be found in Buck Perrys' written material. One that I can relate to has not appeared in the study material----- Roger mentioned to bring food along! This handout would make a good reminder to take out in the boat and review so we can keep "on track" in our fishing. Thanks, Roger, for a well thought out presentation!

2nd PROGRAM

Don Stephens reviewed a number of fishing videos related to Spoonplugging and selected 3 short clips for us to watch. The first was Terry O'Malley talking about when, where, and why to cast. He especially emphasized using a marker on the spot where you want to anchor the boat, then go up wind and let out rope to be right where you want for casting. The second clip was of John Bales catching bass after bass on Hess Lake which really got the "juices flowing" to get out and fish. In Michigan, that is very unrealistic at this time! After we settled down, we watched a clip of Terry O'Malley drawing a map of a structure that was fished on Mona Lake. Don emphasized that we all need to do more drawing of maps with pencil and paper. Each Spoonplugging Instructor has a set of videos, which could be used for club programs. Thanks, Don, for reviewing these and picking out short clips for the program. I'm sure considerable time was involved.

Chase Klinesteker