

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING OCTOBER 2, 2008

FISHING REPORTS

Don Stephens fished the Grand River several times and got some bass but no salmon or steelhead yet. Larry Simonsen fished Murry Lake and caught a small musky. He had heard about Houghton Lake producing several walleye about 2 weeks ago. Art Burke heard that salmon were stacking up at the rivermouth in Muskegon Lake, but other reports are that pickings there have been very slim! Chase fished a very clear Portage Lake for 2 days with scant success, although a 17 inch smallmouth, 4 pike, and a 12 inch rock bass were landed. On his way back, he observed numerous boats fishing Lake Manistee for salmon at the rivermouth. Clarence Allen reported a few bluegills on Camp Lake, but motor trouble cut that trip short. Charlie Myers fished the rivermouth in Muskegon Lake several times for salmon with no results. However, he did catch several nice Northern Pike and bass. (Why is it that when we target a certain species, all other species are looked at as disappointments?). Terry Velting heard about a bass tournament on Reeds Lake where only 2 bass were caught during the entire tournament! He did say that some pike were being caught there. Roger Bouwkamp has been fishing several “new” lakes to gain knowledge. He caught 8 pike to 30 inches on Mecosta Lake, 20 small pike on Long Lake near Belding, some pike from Dickerson and Crystal Lakes, and a 4 pound bass from Winfield Lake. He has an interesting approach to a new lake where he trolls the lakes’ main breakline with the GPS tracking on, and then studies it to determine the best structures which he will be mapping and fishing more thoroughly.

MEETING

9 members attended the meeting. Will Schultz from the Michigan Musky Alliance contacted Charlie Myers about hatcheries needing funds for planting musky. Charlie donated his proceeds from selling a rod and reel, and the club voted to put in \$50. toward helping this cause. With only 15 dues-paying members last year, there was discussion about what we might do to increase membership. More activities and outings were mentioned. We will spend more time discussing this at the December and January meetings, so get some ideas together.

PROGRAM

Don Stephens talked about the great fall fishing opportunities right here in Grand Rapids on the Grand River. He cautioned us to not put our boats away just yet, as some of the best fishing of the year can be in the fall. Salmon and steelhead are the prime targets, although big walleye can move into the river in the fall also. Few areas of the country are as fortunate to have these fisheries so readily available, and we should jump at the chance to take advantage of them. Speed and depth control must be very precise at this time. Learning to present lures in the current and visualizing the bottom structure of the river is critical for success. Don passed out a sheet titled: “Slipping Down The River For Steelhead” which contained information on equipment, techniques, and lures used on the river in the fall. Don has many years experience fishing the Grand River with great success. The 3 methods he talked about were slipping with the current, walking spawn, and bobber tactics. His favorite is slipping with the current trolling crankbaits. Some of the proper tools discussed as being helpful included rods, reels, anchors, and rod holders. Lure selection relates to depth desired, speed used, and current speed. For slower speeds, Don showed a short video describing how to “walk” spawn downstream. The proper rigging, size of weight, and knowledge of current breaks all relate to depth and speed control to bring success. Many thanks to Don for sharing his knowledge about this great local fishery.

Chase Klinesteker