

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING APRIL 2, 2009

FISHING REPORTS

Don Stephens said fishing for steelhead on the Grand River has been slow above the 6th Street dam and they are probably on the beds now. John Stepanovitchs' son had 4 for 7 on the Muskegon River fishing from a boat with spawn. Charlie Myers caught one and lost one at the mouth of Bear Creek on the Grand River. The best area on the Grand River now seems to be put in at Johnson Park and go upstream. Jim VanAsselt fished while down in Florida and got some sheephead and pompano.

MEETING

Current update on Spring Outing: It will be centered at John Stepanovitchs' cottage on Lower Herring Lake May 28-31. Eight have said they will be there. John Bouws has sold his cottage on Portage Lake near Onekema so we will not be staying there, although we will still be close enough to fish Portage Lake. If you plan on going, call John at home (459-7751), to let him know. Plan on bringing some food to share. There is a motel in the area also. Check out alpinemotorlodge.com for one near Portage Lake on US 31. It was decided to have a Youth Tournament on Mona Lake again this year in August. Don Stephens and Jim VanAsselt will coordinate it and give us details later. Thanks, Don and Jim. This is a very fun event for the kids that they look forward to. Riley Rogers has some Spoonplugging equipment for sale. If you are interested, call 363-4805. Roger Bouwkamp reported that we have \$677. in our treasury now. 5 from our club attended the Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar in March. There were over 70 Spoonpluggers from around the nation attending, and John Bales' talk on "Deep Water Fishing" was excellent. If you haven't attended this event before, plan on it next year! Please make note of an error in the date given for the Northern Indiana "Buck Sez" Spoonpluggers Outing. The latest issues of the "National Spoonplugger" and the "Northern Indiana Spoonplugger" (March-April) gave the outing dates (August 7-9) as incorrect. The correct dates for the "Buck Sez" Indiana Outing this year is August 13-16, 2009.

PROGRAM

Terry Velting led a program titled "Making a Difference", involving the presentation of lures and the importance of triggering a strike. Terry mentioned that we each have our own favorite lures and methods, but the bottom line is what you have to do to make a fish take the lure. He has watched fish in ponds and noticed that a triggering move is needed to make fish hit a lure---something different. He referenced Will Schultzs' talk on musky and things he does to change and vary the retrieve. It all boils down to speed and depth, which can vary from 0 speed to very fast, and all depths. Rod stiffness can be a factor in control of the lure, and is one reason Buck recommends stiffer rods both casting and trolling. When trolling, a change in speed will often trigger a strike, and dropping the rod back or making turns will do that. Sometimes the speed needed to trigger a strike is very fast and we discover it by accident. Roger mentioned an incident in Canada that really surprised him. That is why Buck Perry talks about "checking all depths and speeds". Tom Moore mentioned how keeping your lures in tune helps in better control. It was mentioned that you can often check different speeds on the same cast. Try to imaging a fish is there watching your lure. Chase had heard a seminar on lure presentation from Kevin VanDam at the Sport Show, and he went over some of the notes taken. Kevin strongly emphasized that varying retrieve depth and speed was the key. Many thanks to Terry for some very good information. He always seems to bring out lively discussion in his programs!

Chase Klinesteker