

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING NOVEMBER 5, 2009

FISHING REPORTS

Mike Dordan reported fishing Wabasis Lake using the deepwater fishing approach taught by John Bales on October 2. A 30 inch pike was caught at 32 feet and 3 pike were caught at 26 feet. Also, 4 bass to 19 inches were caught trolling up to 3 mph! Mike confirmed that he learned much from John Bales during his on-the-water training October 2 on Wabasis Lake. Bob Terpstra, who was with Mike during the training, fished Wabasis and caught a 33 inch pike and had 2 others fishing deep. The next day he fished it again and caught a 30 inch pike. Bob also fished the Grand River for steelhead, but in 4 trips landed none, indicating they had not moved up the river that far yet. October 29 Chase fished Thornapple Lake and caught 2 pike to 32 inches trolling 6-9 and 9-12 Spoonplugs. John Stepanovich reported that his son fished Muskegon Lake after dark and got 4 nice walleye near the Bear Lake Channel. He was casting suspending jerkbaits and mentioned that a west wind was important. Charlie Flanders reported catching several smallmouth bass by wading and casting in the Thornapple River. Roger Bouwkamp fished Lincoln, Wabasis, and Morrison Lakes and got some pike. Today Charlie Myers fished Murry Lake and got a 38 inch musky, and has had a few other muskies and pike in recent trips. He claimed that a 38 inch musky wasn't worth a picture! Charlie says that if you troll deep, be prepared to haul up some junk. He has brought up at least 5 anchors in the last month, and could qualify as an official lake bottom cleanup company!

MEETING

14 attended the meeting. Elections were held and Larry Simonsen was elected our new president. Congratulations, Larry! Many thanks to Charlie Myers who was president for the last 3 years. He did a great job and we really appreciate all his efforts and good work keeping the club viable. Chase will remain VP and Roger treasurer to fill out the ticket, which was unanimously approved. Roger reminded us that the \$20. annual club dues can be paid at the next few meetings. Mike Dordan reported that we will have the Valentines' Dinner with spouses on Friday, February 12 at Sayfees Restaurant. Plan to attend, as we all had a great time there last year.

PROGRAM

The program was a discussion of what was learned by the four students who took on-the-water Spoonplugging training from John Bales October 1 and 2. Charlie Myers, Roger Bouwkamp, Mike Dordan, and Bob Terpstra all felt that the training was well worth it, opening up new horizons in their fishing. Charlie Myers and Roger Bouwkamp started the program by pointing out structures on the Murry lake map projected on the wall. John had emphasized that you have not checked a structure thoroughly until you have fished it down to 55 feet. He said that it is acceptable to contour troll deeper than 25 feet because in most instances the structures are broader and flatter in those depths. Straight line passes are most effective from 10 to 25 feet where most of the sharper depth changes occur. Charlie drew on the marker board to illustrate this point.

Next the map of Wabasis Lake was projected and Mike Dordan got up to point out areas of where and how fish were caught. Mike and Bob wanted John to do deep water fishing as well as mapping instruction, and they ended up catching several nice pike and bass on the 26 and 32 foot breaklines. In finding deep subtle breaklines, Mike learned how to recognize them when the flasher gets "nervous". These are slight breaklines that mostly won't be noticed on the LCR graph sounder, but the fish can use them. Mike mentioned that he had taken some Spoonplugging training in the past on Mona Lake, but this deepwater work helped him understand more about what is going on shallower, and things seemed to fall in place. The weather was miserable---windy, rainy, and cold, but the students felt the training was well worth the money and time spent. Bob really learned to like the flasher depth sounder because of its' accuracy and quick readings. He said that the experience was hard to explain, but that his eyes were really opened to new concepts. We all wish to thank John Bales for coming up to Michigan, and for his generosity in sharing his knowledge with all our members!

Chase Klinesteker