

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING FEBRUARY 4, 2010

FISHING REPORTS

Lake Macatawa, Reeds Lake, and Muskegon Lake have lots of shanties and fishermen on them but results have been slow. No fishermen were seen on Wabasis Lake. Some open water still is on Lincoln Lake, so be cautious. 1 week ago, Big Glen Lake near Traverse City was completely open. Specs have been caught on Morrison Lake, perch on Reeds, and a 41 inch pike was reported on Lake Bella Vista a week ago (probably from feeding on the stunted bass!).

MEETING

13 attended the meeting. Members were reminded to contact Mike Dordan for reservations to the Valentines' Dinner at Sayfees. (Post Dinner report: 18 signed up and we all had a great time. Larry Simonsen bought some very nice dwarf rose plants to give to each of the spouses. We are planning on a repeat of this event next year! Thanks so much to Larry, and Mike and Nyann Dordan for making this a very memorable time).

A spring outing was discussed. John Stepanovich had offered for us to use his family cottage on Lower Herring Lake and a tentative date was set for May 20-23. More details later. Larry went over items on the Lunker Hunter 2010 Calendar and it should be sent out by E-Mail soon. It was voted to give \$100. to Leisure Village to help with their activities building costs. Roger gave the money to Clarence Allen to give to them. A Fall Outing was discussed, and Tom Moore has agreed to host one up on Fremont Lake where he lives. Date and details will be finalized later, although the weekend of September 17-19 was mentioned. Treasurer Roger Bouwkamp reported we have around \$800. in our treasury. Don Stephens mentioned that a good program would be the Don Dixon tapes on casting and trolling. He will look into having at least part of them shown as a program for the March 4 meeting. Dave Harding mentioned that he likes "Outdoor News" magazine which comes twice per month. Each issue has a contour map of a Michigan lake with some information about it. Subscriptions are \$20. per year and he left a couple of copies for us. The Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar Saturday March 13 was discussed. Terry O'Malley and Jeri Perry will be there and John Bales will be the featured speaker. We already have a mini-van full (John Stepanovich, John Bouws, Don Stephens, Larry Simonsen, Tom Moore, and myself) going. Dave Root also indicated interest, so if you would like to go, contact him. Thanks to Dave Root for the meeting goodies. Chase got up and reviewed the subject matter of the articles in the latest issue of "The National Spoonplugger" newsletter. It has some great content, including articles from Tom Coleman, John Bales, Terry O'Malley, Mike Moran, and Joe Cinadr, as well as an interesting historical article on Buck Perry. We should all suscribe to it, as it is the main information vehicle for all Spoonpluggers. To subscribe, go to nsoa.info.

PROGRAM

First we went over the "Lake of the Month", which was Lincoln Lake in Kent County. Ron Vance supplied contour map copies and members made comments on where they had caught fish and facts about the lake. One member reminisced about possibly hooking and losing "Big Jake", from the million dollar walleye contest there a few years back, but was accused of having an overactive imagination! Terry Velting mentioned that there were probably no muskies left in it, since hybrid muskies were last planted there in 1991. It has been planted heavily in the past with walleye, but there is relatively little shallow water and therefore may not be very productive. It also has very clear water. Roger has fished Blue Lake, which is connected to it and has caught a number of pike there. The NW bay of Lincoln Lake has a marl bottom and looks good for pike and bass spawning in the spring. It is likely a good late fall lake because of its' depth and size, but there are few small isolated holes for casting.

Next, we went over the second half of questions on Mapping and Interpretation from Buck Perrys' "Guidelines For Fishing Success" home study series. Each question was discussed and we referred to the correct answers in the series. These are very thought-provoking and some are even a little tricky, but we learn a lot. All fishermen serious about their hobby should study these guidelines.

Finally, Terry Velting led a discussion on "What we learned last year from our fishing", and "What Are Our Fishing Goals For 2010?". Larry felt that his learning to use markers correctly was very helpful. He also mentioned that we

cannot tell fish where they must be, but that it is necessary to check each area thoroughly. Also, if you are not catching fish, try something different (check different depths and speeds). His goals for 2010 are to learn better boat control, do some ice fishing, and work on deepwater trolling. Don Stephens reminded us to go fishing whenever you can, since things (and health issues) will pop up to thwart you. He has always emphasized getting priorities straight. Charlie Flanders recently bought the home study guide, has read it a lot, and plans to continue doing so. He feels that he has spent too much time in shallow water and would like to work more on his deepwater lure presentation. Roger felt that his top learning experience of '09 was his on the water training with John Bales at the spring outing. He especially noted how important details of casting presentation were in triggering fish to strike. He intends to get better at it and to be more precise in selecting the proper tools for controlling depth and speed. John Bouws has realized that successful fishing truly involves hard work and study. The goal of catching more and bigger fish is worth it, and he intends to seriously study Bucks' "Guidelines to Fishing Success". John Stepanovich thoroughly enjoyed his training with John Bales, and intends to work on the information he was given, especially about Lower Herring Lake. Charlie Myers said that his on the water training with John Bales was "priceless", especially learning about finding and working small deepwater breaklines. Terry Velting noted this summer just how inactive fish can be if the weather pattern is colder. Sometimes only a very slow or dead stop presentation was all the fish would take. A very slow sinking lure was also effective at times. Terrys' goal in 2010 is to learn more about slower presentations and their effectiveness. Clarence found the panfish to be very slow also, with some fishless days (not normal for Clarence!), but he was persistent, returning other days to make catches. Dave Harding didn't fish much this year in Michigan, but he really enjoys the fishing in Florida, and hopes to do more there. He said fishing has been tough in Florida this year also, and they have closed several species' seasons because of that.

John Janowiak said that last season was a bad one for him----except for the last day, when he caught his largest fish ever! He intends to read Bucks' book "Spoonplugging" and learn much more.

From all of the above, we can deduce that learning about Spoonplugging involves a lifetime of study. Many of our members were fortunate this past year to have access to on the water training by John Bales, and much was learned. For that we thank John greatly, and wish him the best for the future.

Chase Klinesteker