

“PANFISHING”



Bluegill on a #500 Spoonplug

The program subject was **“Panfish” given by 4 members**. Jim VanAsselt first got up and talked about **bluegill on Camp Lake**. At this time of year he uses **worms**, 2 small hooks, and 4-6 pound line. The hooks are put on loops in the line like a drop-shot rig. Now the fish seem to be located down about 4 feet over deep water, not on the beds. John Bouws talked about **perch in Lake Michigan**. He handed out a contour map of lake Michigan at Holland with perch locations on it. Grand Haven, South Haven, and Saint Joe are good now. A heavy 1-2 ounce sinker is needed to get the bait down quickly. The weight keeps the bait more steady in sometimes rougher weather. He uses a Bear Claw connector to put 2 snelled hooks on each line. Some perch were located in 35 feet of water south of the pier recently but can move in and out to 60 or more feet. Morning and evening are the best times for perch. Schools can be large and he anchors to fish. Fireline gives a better feel of bites. Next, Tom Moore talked about **crappie on Fremont Lake**. He uses small 2 inch tubes and light jigs of 1/32, 1/16, and 1/8 ounce size. He

feels that the 1/8 ounce size may fall too fast in many instances. Crappie spawn at about 60 degree surface water temperature. After the spawn he fishes real slowly along weedline dropoffs with 3/16 to 3/8 ounce jigs with double twister tails. Tom likes them in a red color but uses other colors also. Finally, Charlie Flanders talked about **fly-fishing for bluegills in the spring**. Spawning can be at different stages in different areas of a lake. He feels a fly is a great presentation in this instance because bluegills are spread out on flats and can be covered quickly with a fly. Males guarding eggs are more aggressive and speed control can be varied with selection of line, fly weight, and movement of fly on the surface. Wet flies with floating or sinking lines can also be used for depth control. Flies, spiders, and poppers can be selected in different sizes. Because of bluegills' small mouths, larger lures catch mostly bigger fish. Charlie recommends for us to watch the weather closely. Often later in the afternoon, the fish will move onto the beds and become active. He uses 7 and 8 foot flyrods but feels one can even fish flies with a bobber and spinning rod. Remember if conditions are right, **panfish can be caught on trolled crankbaits also**, as the picture shows. It is all a matter of depth and speed!

We want to thank Jim, John, Tom, and Charlie for all the useful information given about panfishing. I can taste them already!!

Chase Klinesteker