

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2013

“STEELHEAD FISHING PROGRAM”



Grand River Steelhead caught casting a bladebait

Jim VanAsselt gave the program on steelhead fishing. He likes to use a **7ft 6 inch rod**. A longer rod **gives a better spread when trolling** and is **more forgiving** with such an **active fish** when hooked. He uses **slow crankbaits like Tadpolls, Wiggle Warts, and Flatfish**, which run **about 3-6 feet deep**, as much of the river is quite shallow. The **line length can vary** and determines the actual depth of the lure. **Short 30 foot lines can often be effective**. Use **good solid rod holders**, as steelhead are **very strong fish**. Always have a **good river anchor or chain available**, as they **can be used for dropping lures back or slow slipping downstream**. Bring along a **baitcasting rod**. **Cleo spoons, crankbaits, bladebaits, and spinners can be cast** by the person not running the boat **while trolling** to cover more water. **Speeds are usually slow** in the cold water, but **check faster speeds also**. If there is **heavy current**, he will **slowly troll forward but let the current slowly move the boat and lures downstream to the fish**, which is called **“slipping”**. If braided lines are used, he recommends a **mono leader to adsorb the shock**. **Strikes when casting for steelhead can be a real awakening experience!** Jim fishes spawn for steelhead also. He uses a **slip sinker and barrel swivel as a stop** and a **mono leader to the hook**. He **casts this at a 45 degree angle upstream** to decrease snags.

Chase Klinesteker