

“A SECRET BIG FISH LAKE” Spring 2003

How **would you like to fish a lake** where it is possible to **catch 16 fish** and **13** of them were **over 5 pounds**? Where the **5 largest were 8,9,11,12, and 14 pounds**? Where the **species** caught were **active and powerful fighters** that **left you drained** at the end of the day **from fighting fish**?

The above **describes a recent days’ fishing** I had on a **lake in our area**. The day **started** out with **trolling** the **shallows** of 2 large structures using the #500, #400, and #250 Spoonplugs. **No fish** were caught, so it was **decided to anchor and cast** known **structures** that had been **previously mapped** and proven productive. The first structure was a turn in the breakline. Both **Spoonplugs and jump lures** were **fancast** at the contact point and different speeds were checked, but no takers. A few fish marks could occasionally be seen on the depth sounder, so it was decided to **wait for the fish to become active** (and it was time to eat lunch!). There were **no hits for** about ½ hour. Then **one tap on a jump lure** near the boat sharpened my concentration. **Shortly** I was catching **fish on almost every cast** of the ½ ounce **bladebait**. A few casts with a #700 Spoonplug to check faster speeds indicated that a jump lure presentation was best at this time. **Soon the action stopped**. **Either** the school of fish had been **spooked**, the **activity period** was **over**, or the **school had moved** down the breakline. I **quickly** pulled up anchor and **began trolling** the 10-11 foot breakline that forms the structure. **2 more fish** were **caught** on the troll, but I could not seem to pinpoint the school on the cast. Then **other mapped structures** were **checked** in the same manner. The first produced nothing. **On the 2nd spot**, fancasting a wider area **produced a hit, and the fun was on again!** By being **anchored**, I could **cast to the same spot repeatedly** to **catch more fish from the school**. The day ended **totally exhilarating---and exhausting, one of my best days ever on the water!** “**What was the fish species and secret lake?**” you ask. It was **Drum** on **Lake Macatawa**. That doesn’t take away any of the thrill of the day for me. **Anytime one can catch over 100 pounds of hard-fighting fish** like that, **it is a great day!** Besides, I have been into a number of schools of **Bass** in the past, and they **react and behave** in exactly the **same manner**, as do other species of fish. The **Spoonplugging knowledge** given to us by Buck Perry **allowed** me to **take advantage** of the situation, and I **experienced the joy and satisfaction from fishing** that Mr. Perry always talked about!

Chase Klinesteker



27 inch Lake Macatawa Drum (Freshwater Sheepshead)