

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING APRIL 3, 2008

“PRESENTATION OF LURES WITH SUCCESS”



Various Jump lures

Grant Hendrixson and Terry Velting gave a program titled: “Presentation of Lures with Success”. Terry emphasized that we **first** should **learn about structure** and proper lure presentation procedures by **reading Buck Perrys’ Study Guide**. Then Grant got up and **described several ways he presents lures casting, especially in springtime**. Grant has fished a lot of bass and walleye tournaments, beginning in the early 70s’, and has been very successful at it. He **does very little trolling**. Many **Spoonpluggers are just the opposite**, they troll most of the time and seldom cast because they are catching numbers of good fish trolling. **We well can learn from each other**. Mr Perry often stated that **a versatile and successful fisherman under all conditions needs to do both**. Grant brought 5 rigged rods with lures on them to show us **his favorite presentations casting**. He uses **both spinning and baitcasting outfits**. In general, **spinning is used on lighter lures and baitcasting on heavier lures and crankbaits**. He feels that **casting crankbaits can be tiring** (let him cast an 800 Spoonplug for a while to discover what real tiring is!), **so he mixes up his presentations** to find out what works at that time and place. He is much **aware of the season, structure, species, and weather conditions** to help him make his selection of what presentation to begin with (interpretation). **One of his most productive presentations** and what he starts most tournament fishing with is **a tube jig**. Lighter weights ($1/16 + 1/8$ ounce) are **used in the shallows** for slower speeds. He prefers to use 8 pound mono line and Gamagatsu hooks with them. In **deeper water he uses $1/4$ and $3/8$ ounce tube jigs**. A **“jig and pig”** is a **similar presentation but it is weedless**, and he uses a $3/4$ ounce weight and 14 pound line to fish deeper and go into heavy weeds.

Grant demonstrated **other presentations** such as **flipping, drop-shot rig, and wacky worm**. These are **very slow presentations used under special conditions** like **clear water and cold fronts**. He has found them quite effective for inactive fish. The **“wacky worm”** is **especially slow**, since **no weight is used** but the hook.

Another presentation that he uses a lot in walleye tournaments is a **vertical jigging spoon**. It is used where structure or **fish are pinpointed in deep water**. He feels that a scent on the lure can be helpful in this stationary type of presentation. Buck Perry has said that **confidence in your presentation is a big part of successful fishing, and if you feel it helps, use it**. Having **rods already rigged with lures** is important to a tournament fisherman, and Grant said that he usually has about 12 rods with him. From his interpretation of conditions, however, he likes to narrow that down to **only 3 or 4 rods that he gets out and actually uses**.

Terry **drew some structure situations on the dry-erase board** and asked Grant to show where he would position the boat and how he would make his casts. Grant said that, if possible, he **likes to have the wind behind him for more accurate and longer casting**. With a good wind, **walleye can be especially active in the shallows**, and by positioning **the boat in deep water**, he can **work the shallows without spooking** the fish. **To work deeper along a weedline or breakline, he gets on it and casts parallel to it**. If he is using the electric motor for position, he likes to let the **wind do most of the work** moving the boat. He stressed that **he doesn't just "run and gun"**, but **works water thoroughly**, and that **midlake humps are excellent structures that should not be passed up**.

When **checking the shallows**, a good Spoonplugger will **always check the faster speeds first** because **active fish are more easily caught** and it takes little time. When this **doesn't work**, what we often fail to do, especially in the spring, is to **check the slower speeds with worms, jigs, or tubes**. Our Illinois friends have demonstrated how effective a slowly worked worm can be on Hess Lake, even in the summer at times. It all **boils down to checking all depths and all speeds for the most thorough presentation**. We sincerely thank Grant and Terry for a most informative and interesting program.

Chase Klinesteker