

## LUNKER HUNTER-SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING NOV.2, 2006

### “PRESENTATION ON NEW LAKES”



Roger with a nice Pike

**Roger Bouwkamp** talked about what he learned this past summer fishing some new lakes he hadn't fished before. His results have been **some of the best catches of fish this year in the club**, so we all paid attention! He said that **Spoonpluggers** can learn more than others because of **the knowledge we begin with**. **Learning a new lake** is fun and exciting, and it is **the best way to become a better fisherman**. It is easier to **get into a "rut" on lakes we are more familiar with**. First we must **really want to learn the lake**. This can be a challenge, but the **results can be very rewarding**. Learn what to look for. **Start with a deep water hole 30-35 feet or deeper (the home of the fish)**. The larger and deeper holes should contain **greater numbers of the largest fish**. Pick the **structures that extend out around that hole and map each one thoroughly**, first with the **depth sounder**, and then by **placing markers and trolling** with different sized Spoonplugs, **checking all depths and bottom conditions**.

**Visualizing the form** of the structure under water **takes practice**, but the **markers and straight line trolling passes help us greatly with that**. With a **weedline**, place **markers on the projections** so that **trolling passes can be made close to, but not in the weeds**. With enough passes, you will begin to **visualize the underwater form of the structure**. Now comes the part most Spoonpluggers are reluctant to do: **get out pencil and paper and draw the structure**. Buck Perry reminds us to **"Record what you learn"** and Terry O'Malley says: **"If you can't draw it, you don't know it!"** **Roger believes drawing maps has helped him immensely** and he never regrets doing it. If a fish is **caught while trolling**, he **throws out a marker and goes back to anchor and cast**. Try **faster speeds first**, then check the slower **jump lures**. Try to figure out **where the fish came from** and what led him there. Your visualization or drawn map will be very helpful here. **Use linesights to pinpoint the fish** and make it easy to return to the spot in the future.

That is a **Spoonpluggers' approach to learning a new lake and catching fish**. No, it is **not easy**, and it **requires discipline**. Yet, as Roger has proven, the **rewards can be great**. Even if we catch no fish (**they are not active most of the time**), we will **come off the lake with maps and knowledge** that will be very useful in the future when they do become active. Thanks, Roger for a very informative program!