

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING JANUARY 3, 2008

“PROGRESSING IN YOUR FISHING”

“SKILL TO DO COMES OF DOING”—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The subject of the program was “**Progressing In Your Fishing**”. We began by reading and discussing an excellent **article by John Bales** in the December issue of the “**Northern Indiana Spoonplugger**”. The article emphasized that **the more new lakes that we fish and the more structure situations that we study, the better fishermen we will become**. Natural lakes are easy, with deep holes, bars, humps, and saddles. The learning is increased as we fish rivers, large lakes, and reservoirs. John reviewed his learning process while fishing **Lake Erie, Detroit River, Lake Saint Clair, and the Saint Clair River**. This is a huge area that required many trips and a number of years to become familiar with these waters, but **John persisted**, catching **more and bigger fish as his knowledge increased**. His great catches of walleye, Smallmouth, and muskies speak for themselves. **Was all the time, study, and effort worth it? You bet!!** There is never a point where you cannot learn more.

We then went around the room and asked members “**What did you learn in your fishing for 2007?**” Some of the answers included: **understanding basics better**, became **more comfortable presenting lures**, learned **a lake more thoroughly**, go deeper if only catching small fish, fish as tight as possible **to the weeds**, to start shallow and **continue to go deeper** if no fish, sometimes speeds of **6-7 mph** are needed to get fish to strike, and to **check both trolling and casting presentations on every trip**. Some of the **goals for 2008 included**: to record in a fishing log, start mapping from the deepest water in the area, **draw more structure maps**, learn **mapping better**, follow **Spoonplugging procedures more closely**, **spend more time on the water**, learn how to take better linesights, pre-rigging casting rods to check different depths and speeds, learn to **interpret structure better**, have a **presentation plan** before getting on the water, and to **study contour maps more closely** to better interpret the situation.

All subjects of the items learned and the goals being set **are covered thoroughly in Buck Perrys' written material**, which most of us have read. Most are concepts we are familiar with. But **reading knowledge and working knowledge are two different things**. The on-the-water experience and **time spent is necessary to achieve a working knowledge of the written material**. This results when **actions and decisions on the water come automatically without question**. We all strive to get closer to that goal.

Chase Klinesteker