

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING MAY 3, 2007

THINKING “OUTSIDE THE BOX”

“AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST”—Ben Franklin

We went around the room and several members commented on what they **learned from John Bales’ seminar**. Don felt that Johns’ springtime **casting information** was very helpful and he was eager to try it out. Charlie was amazed at **the way John thinks about what to do on the water**. If he **sees something different, he will investigate it**. Charlie described it as **“thinking outside the box”**. Chase felt that Johns’ thoughts and actions reflect the simplicity of Spoonpluggings’ basic concepts, and that **Spoonplugging concepts have always been “outside the box” of much of conventional thought in fishing**. Mike Dordan brought up about how **John** approached his fishing on Muskegon Lake at last years’ Muskegon outing---how he **did things that most fishermen would not do, and came up successful!** Roger emphasized **learning to fish the best structure (situation), not just any structure**. Larry said he learned **the importance of fishing deeper** when necessary because of the zebra mussels, even down to 60 feet! It was also mentioned that **John sees much more than we do when he gets on the water**. To improve on this, **we need to pay better attention** and gain as much on-the-water experience as possible.

After the break, the discussion continued. John always **has casting rods, anchor, and markers ready at hand** when trolling. The **main goal** of a Spoonplugger is to **get into a school of adult fish** and catch several on consecutive casts. We must **keep them in a “frenzy”** if we want to catch more, and **time is of the essence**. **All of Bucks big catches** (up to 49 bass in a row over 3 lbs.) **were caught casting Spoonplugs from an anchored position**. This must be done **quickly and efficiently** or the school is lost. And don’t quit easily. An example was given where, after catching a big bass trolling, **4 different anchoring positions were tried before the school was located** and several bass caught. Terry Velting mentioned that **much mental discipline is needed to run the 3 small lures**. Spoonplugging is not for everyone. Only those willing to put forth the effort will succeed. Terry O’Malley defines **Spoonplugging as the “Ultimate in Fishing”** because **we target the largest fish of all species on all types of waters**. It can’t get much better than that!!

Chase Klinesteker