

## “GOODBYE, GOOD FRIEND”



**Don Stephens with 2 Grand River Steelhead**

Don Stephens, longtime National Spoonplugger member, **passed away quietly February 25, 2012**. He was a **charter member of the Grand Rapids, Michigan Lunker Hunter Spoonpluggers** which began around 1972. At that time, he managed to convince me to get into fishing, handed me a copy of “Fishing Facts” magazine, and offered to take me fishing---all while being worked on in the dental chair! Needless to say, I accepted his offer and we became the **closest of friends**. I always looked up to Don and **treasured his fishing experience and knowledge**. For many years, extra monthly “Spoonplugging Study Group” meetings were held at his house just to study Buck Perrys’ material. He **generously shared his fishing knowledge** at Lunker Hunter meetings by giving programs, drawing up handouts, and taking beginning Spoonpluggers out on the water to help them. He enthusiastically attended many Chattanooga Jamborees, making friends and **helping others** there also. It would be hard to find someone that was more dedicated to spreading the word about Spoonplugging. Even more important, **he was a good friend to all**. This was best exemplified when at a recent Lunker Hunter meeting after his passing, members were asked to say what they most remember about Don. “Good natured and always inquisitive”, “Unselfish, likable, true gentleman”, “Comfortable to talk to”, “Willing to talk to ‘newbies’”, “Friendly and welcoming”, “Persistent, never gave up”, “A good friend, ready to help” were some of the responses. We all have good memories of Don, and he will never be forgotten. Rest in peace, Don. **We will miss you!**