

MUSKEGON OUTING REPORT, JULY 9-13, 2008

The 18th annual Muskegon Spoonpluggers Outing was a success. The weather was comfortable, not too hot or cold. About 50 Spoonpluggers from MI, IN, OH, and IL attended the delicious Saturday evening meal, which was planned and coordinated by the “Dynamic Dordan Duo” of Mike and Nyann! Terry Veltings’ “Rolling Tackle Shop” of Spoonplugging lures and equipment was kept busy, aided by Tom Moore. Maps, coffee, and orange drink were available at the Hospitality Tent, which maintained its’ composure despite some very high winds. 20 to 30 attended each nightly fishing report and chalkboard session. This is where we learn the most from other Spoonpluggers, and sharing our knowledge is our trademark. These sessions included John Bales describing fishing in eastern Lake Erie , Jim Duplex talking about the mouth of the Muskegon River , Scott Duff describing how he got into a school of fish on Allegan Lake , and Joe Cinadr relating what he had learned from Terry O’Malley about weather affecting fish.

The weather, although comfortable, was quite unstable with fronts passing every day or 2, making fishing tough. Yet the Spoonpluggers came through with some very nice catches. A few got into schools of fish, including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and some “arm busting” drum! Water color again demonstrated its’ importance, as most of our fish, especially the largest, came from darker waters. One of the nicest fish was a 9 pound, 28 inch walleye from Mona Lake caught by Wayne Dylo. Other large fish caught included northern pike to 34 inches, smallmouth bass to 16 ½ inches, and largemouth bass to 21 inches. The largest in the “just fun to catch” category included a 17 pound carp, 13 pound drum, 9 pound bowfin, 10 pound flathead catfish, 24 inch channel catfish, and a 45 inch gar pike! This area is blessed with a great variety of fish species---and we didn’t even get into the salmon and trout!

Many thanks to all those who helped and pitched in to make this outing a success. The Lunker Hunter Spoonpluggers really appreciate the attendance of Spoonpluggers from all around the Midwest . Next year the Muskegon Spoonpluggers Outing will be held July 8-12, 2009 . Call Fishermans’ Landing now to reserve a space at: 231-726-6100.

Chase Klinesteker