



Editor: Tom Raschke (tomraschke50@gmail.com) or 608-219-9243

Club Web site: <http://www.yaharafishingclub.org>

Walleyes, Sauger, and Lake Wisconsin

Notes By Stan Nichols

Let me reminisce, my grandparents lived on Lake Wisconsin from the time I was in middle school until after I graduated from college. I spent a lot of time fishing there - mainly in the bay at Okee. My grandmother was a supreme angler. She caught more fish off the end of her pier with a cane pole than most anglers on the lake. One of my favorite stories was going up there and she was all smiles. She caught a walleye bigger than her neighbor, Rudy's. Rudy caught a walleye the week before that was close to 30 inches. We went down to the pier to see the fish. When we got to the pier, no fish. She strung it on a rope stringer. The fish broke the stringer and got away.

We went to the Bridge Tavern one day in early November. The wind was blowing whitecaps up the lake. Water was sloshing over the rocks on the causeway at Okee and freezing. All the old-timers were saying what a great day it was for fishing walleyes. The only thing I couldn't figure out is why, if it was such a good day, they were all sitting around the bar instead of fishing.

So much for that - if you are going to Lake Wisconsin, Robert Blosser gave us some advice at the March meeting on how to catch

walleyes and sauger during the spring, summer, and fall. Lake Wisconsin is a flowage, held up by the dam at Prairie du Sac. It is generally stained water with summer algae blooms. There is a lot of water between eight and twelve feet deep. The bottom is



Robert Blosser

primarily sand and muck. The walleye habitat is generally areas of riprap, gravel shoreline, and stumps. There is a 20 to 28 inch slot size where you cannot keep walleyes. The primary forage for walleyes is golden and emerald shiners, shad, and white bass. In areas where you catch walleyes you are also likely to catch smallmouth bass and an

occasional musky. In the spring focus on areas with current. This is the area from the head of the lake and up the Wisconsin River to the I-90 Bridge. Walleye will "run" up the river to spawn and then drift back down with the current. They will hold and rest in quiet areas, i.e. current breaks, next to current areas. Starting at the I-90 Bridge, the current starts on the north side of the river, then swings to the south side in about one-half mile where the current pushes into a bluff. This is probably the best early season location. When fishing here slows (after a couple of weeks), move down river. Here the current swings north into the narrows -another good spot. Keep working down stream as the season progresses.

During the summer the stump fields, mid-lake humps, rock piles, and wind blown points are the places to look. There aren't many mid-lake humps or rock piles, but if you find one that no one knows about it could be "dynamite". This leaves the stump fields. Most are located along the north side of the lake between the inlet and the railroad trestle. This is a lot of water and the fish can be in a different locations every day. It may take

Continued next page

one-half day to find them. When you find them, target the area.

The fall is the reverse of the spring. The fish are heading back up-river. A lot of anglers target the area around the railroad trestle. As the water cools the fish move into deeper water. There are areas north of the railroad trestle that are next to the old river channel that are just as good as the trestle area and not fished nearly as hard. Fish breaklines and flats close to deep water and locations where you found fish in the spring.

How do you catch these fish? The basic way in the spring is a jig-and-minnow or trolling three-way (Wolf River) rigs. For jigs, Robert recommends 1/8-to-1/2 ounce jigs in pink, charcoal, or black colors. He likes "stand-up" jig heads. Put a Fuzzy Grub or a twister tail with the "twister" torn off on the jig and bend the hook point out. Generally you won't need a 1/2-ounce jig except in fast current. The technique is to drop the jig to the bottom, lift it about six inches and pause it before dropping is again. Walleyes feed by looking up so you don't want to let the jig stay on the bottom. Drift downstream no faster than the current so you can keep your line and jig vertical. Use minnows until the water temperature gets to about 50° then switch over to nightcrawlers (or when you first start seeing nightcrawlers on the sidewalk).

After a drift is made downstream, troll back upstream using the three-way rig. Use a #5 to #9, firetiger or orange Rapalla, a "Phelps Floater", or a 'Slow Death" rig with a crawler or minnow. Uses a 3-to-6 foot leader from the three-way swivel to the bait or lure. Troll upstream at about walking speed. Fish like slower presentations in cold water and the forage in the spring is smaller so use a smaller lure than in the summer or fall. The focus in all seasons is to find the baitfish. The walleyes won't be far behind.

In the summer, Robert's main technique is trolling with planer boards in the lake. He trolls the stump fields on the north side of the lake from the river mouth to the railroad trestle. He will troll down the eight-foot breakline and then back up the 14-foot breakline until he finds the fish. He likes shad style baits in blue and white, fire tiger, or black and gold colors. He likes standard Shadraps early in the summer and jointed ones later in sizes #4-#7 although #5 are the general "stand-by". Trolling speed is about 2.3 to 2.8 M.P.H. Seldom does he go below 2.0 M.P.H. To keep from sacrificing too many Shadraps to the stumps, try to keep the lures above them.

Bigger lures and faster trolling speed is recommended for fall. Use #7 and #8 Shadraps. Troll them at speeds between 2.5 and 3 m.p.h. Another option

is to fish blade baits. Robert says there is no wrong way to fish blade baits- trolling, casting, or jigging. They are a great option for inexperienced angler.

For safety sake remember that Lake Wisconsin is a flowage. Debris floats down the river, there are stumps to hit, and shallow areas in the river portions so use caution when boating. Also give the Merrimac Ferry a clearance of 100 yards on either end. The ferry uses a cable to cross the river and the cable will be at or above the water surface within 100 yards of either end of the ferry.

Robert can be contacted at:
www.robertblosser.com

NPAA

Robert Blosser is president of the National Professional Anglers Association and Jim Kloth and may be other YFC members also belong. If you want more information or are interested in joining go to www.npaa.net.

Clean Lake

At the March meeting Jack Hurst talked about the Clean Lakes Newsletter and the article it had on aquatic invasive species. If you are interested, you can view it on-line at www.info@cleanlakes.com

YFC Discusion Forum

This new way for club members to share fishing tips and other club-related discussions has been a big success. We now have at least half of the regular members on board.

All members are encouraged to join. We hope to eventually use this forum for all club electronic communications.

Just go to our website and click on the top red link for the forum for more details on how to join.

For Sale

Minn Kota Power Drive bow mount trolling motor. 55 lbs of thrust and an Excusive Maximizer built in. The foot control is included along with a weedless wedge prop. \$200.

Hummingbird Piranha Max 20 Fish Finder. Black and white display. Transducer was mounted on the above trolling motor. \$25.

If you are interested, contact Duffy Kopf: 608-576-2700 or ljkopf@tds.net



NEBULUS™
Emergency Flotation Device

A flotation device designed to save the lives of people on the ice riding an ATV or snowmobile. For information contact: Duffy Kopf
608-576-2700
ljkopf@tds.net

OFFICES AND BOAT SLIPS



INTERLAKE BOATYARD

Located Between Lakes Monona and Waubesa

Call George Kinsler
223-1961

Contribute your original recipe to Healthy Dishes with Wisconsin Fishes

Do you have a favorite recipe for a healthy fish meal or appetizer using Wisconsin fish? Share your recipe and it just might be included in an online DNR cookbook or featured in the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine!

The Recipe must:

- Be your own
- Use Wisconsin fish species
- Be a cooked dish

Recipes will be selected by a panel of Wisconsin DNR staff based on:

- Species diversity
- Creativity and originality
- Healthiness
- Ease of preparation
- Recipe inspiration

Submit your recipe using the online form at <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/consumption/healthydishes.html>

Deadline for submission is June 1, 2012
From Mary Ann Read

The Newsletter - Now in Color

This is a reminder that a color version of the YFC newsletter is now available on-line each month.

If you don't have a computer or for some reason can't view the newsletter on the internet, we will continue to mail you a black and white copy.

If you can view it on-line (and you can then print it if you prefer) please let me know of your email address. You will then get the link to the newsletter several days before the mailed copy gets to your home. This saves the club publishing and mailing costs and again, it is in color. Any questions feel free to call me or send me an email.

P.S. The current as well as previous issues going back 4 years are available on the website.

Tom Raschke, editor
608-219-9243 or tomraschke50@gmail.com

FINICKI AUTO ELECTRIC

Marine, ATV and PowerSports

Starters		Alternators
Generators		Pump Motors
Batteries		Installations
Deliveries		Pick-Ups

3127 E. Washington Ave. Service:
Madison, WI 53704 (608) 243-8730

Toll Free 1-866-243-8730



V.F.W. Post 1318
133 Lakeside St.
Madison 53715
608-255-5955




Fishing Basics

On Saturday March 10th Jim Kloth and Tom Wilke volunteered at a “Kids Introduction to Fishing” seminar at the Eagle Heights Community Center in Madison. Eagle Heights is a community of apartments for graduate students, post-docs, academic staff, and UW faculty. The seminar was organized by Greg Karch, a licensed Captain with the United States Coast Guard and fishing guide. Greg gave a presentation of fishing basics, and volunteers manned fishing education stations covering fish identification, lure types, live bait, rods & reels, knot tying, safety, evasive species, fish cleaning and hands-on casting. The Center’s director and Greg were pleased with the participation from the residents.

Over 90 kids attended. Jim and I used this opportunity to promote our upcoming “Kids Fishing Day” on June 2nd. Greg, whose presentations were a big part at last year’s Kid Fishing Day, will be there again. As club members we should do our best to support his efforts in any way we can. At the end of the Eagle Heights event many lucky kids won rod/reel outfits and other prizes. And Greg joined our club that day.

Tune Into
 “Outdoor Horizons”
 Saturdays at 8:00 AM
 Radio WTDY 1670 AM



Hosts Gary Engberg,
 Tony Puccio, Wally Banfi



Live Bait Archery Supplies
 Tackle Bow's & Arrows
 Guide Service Ice Shack Rentals
 Fishing Info

**D & S Bait,
 Tackle & Archery, LLC**

Store: 608-241-4225
 Fishing Hotline: 608-244-3474
BIG-FISH

Gene & Sandy Dellinger
 1411 Northport Drive
 Madison, WI 53704

www.ds bait.com

Pharo Marine Inc
 Hwy 113 and River Road in Waunakee
 849-5950

MERCURY
 The Water Calls

Pontoons Deckboats
 Mercury Mariner Force
 Maruliser OMC

“We excell in service”

**MAZANET
 MARINA**

“OUR 40th YEAR ON LAKE MENDOTA”
SALES & SERVICE

Ranger *HiroCraft*
EVINRUDE **STINGRAY**

- * WINTER STORAGE
- * 300 WET & DRY SLIPS
- * GAS DOCK - BEER & ICE
- * BOAT RENTAL * LIVE BAIT

WWW.MAZANETMARINA.COM
249-9316
 5320 BLUE BILL PARK DR

Outing Change for April

Due to the early spring, fishing below the Sauk Dam may be marginal. After listening to Robert Bloesser's presentation at the March meeting about Lake Wisconsin, it seems this would be a better choice for Wisconsin River Walleyes.

So we will switch from below the Dam to above the Dam. For car/boat poolers, we will meet at Gander Mountain at 5:30am and head toward the Launch at Hwy. V just North of Hwy. CS, cost to launch is \$0. Please read Stan Nichols' article in the April YFC newsletter about this area of Lake Wisconsin as presented by Robert Bloesser.

The dates are April 12th, Thursday, and April 14th, Saturday. Note the Thursday date is a change from the earlier Wed. date due to the fact the YFC meeting is Tuesday night. This will be BYO for food and beverages. I will have signup sheets at the April 10th meeting to arrange car/boat pooling.

Jim Kloth who has fished these waters a lot will provide a brief overview at the April Meeting.

Any questions or early sign ups, please contact me.

May 19, Sat., is White Bass on the Fox River out of Oshkosh much like last year. Sign up for lunch count and car/boat pooling is necessary. More detail later.

June is Devils Lake, ND, June 16 - 23, week+ trip - sold out for Lodging (17 guys signed up), but if interested, let me know, maybe additional lodging is available.

July 14-15, Fishing Has No Boundaries, Governor Nelson State Park. Club members are needed for several activities. See Marv Cutrell for more info.

Tom Klein

For Sale



Cataraft - \$95
 Contact Stan Nichols
 608-838-8415
 sanicho1@facstaff.wisc.edu

Dorn Hardware and Sporting Goods
"The Fishing & Hunting Specialists"

Professional Help **ELECTRONICS**
 Inland and Lake Michigan
Tackle and Accessories
Guns Ammunition Archery

Competitive Prices at
 4 Locations
 Northgate Oregon
 Monona
 Brookwood

HT ENTERPRISES, INC.

Duffy Kopt - Pro Staff
 506 Raymond Road
 Waunakee, WI 53597
 608-848-7245 (H)
 608-576-2700 (C)
 dkopt@tds.net

POLAR FIRE Cold Weather Clothing

Jiffy Ice Drills

Contact Duffy at 608-576-2700

Full Color Copies (608) 257-8900

PRINTING & COPYING, LLC

131 West Wilson Street, #7500 Madison, WI 53703

One- and Two-Color Printing
 Copying up to 36" x 48"
 Large Format Posters

Posters, Banners, Wide Format for Trade Shows, displays, parties, advertisements, etc.

Dwyer Marine

2410 S. Stoughton Rd., Madison, WI 53716
 Tel: 608-222-5591 Fax: 608-222-3644 Cell: 608-604-8970

www.dwyermarine.com

Apex Marine **GB Boats** **YAMAHA**

Terry Balding & Associates
 Professional Money Management
 Financial Planning

515 W. Main Street
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590
 (608) 837-9099
 1-800-727-3039
 FAX (608) 825-6468
 Email: tbalding@hirep.net
 www.plannr.com

"Your Partner in Success"
Terry Balding CFP

Securities offered through Harbour Investments, Inc., One Odana Court, Madison, WI 53719
 (800) 274-7744 • Member NASD/SIPC

Notes From the Prez

Mother Nature is at it again. We sure had some beautiful weather in March. The ice melted and I started seeing some boats on the water. Sure made me want to get out on the water myself.

Last month's meeting with Robert Blosser was great. It was good to hear where to find those Walleyes and how to catch them. It was a larger than usual meeting with guests and new members. Welcome to everyone that came.

Some of our members really enjoyed their time at Clements Barge. People were catching some huge perch, catfish, bass and even a dog fish. The weather was perfect for the outing and from what I heard the barge was crowded. If you didn't get a chance to go think about doing it next year. Thanks Tom for planning this event out.

This month's meeting starts at 6 pm at Olin Park. Greg Stacey will demo cleaning boats and trailers to help prevent the spread of invasive species. After the demo we will head back over to the VFW for our meeting. The board will have their meeting after the regular meeting.

April 11th Tom has another outing for Walleyes. Possible second outing will be the 14th. Tom originally planned it for the Sauk Dam area, but with the warmer temps early on, Tom is looking at fishing Lake Wisconsin. Final details will be announced at the meeting. Tom will have a signup sheet. He will be coordinating boaters with non boaters so be sure to let him know if you are coming.

May is our White Bass outing, watch for updates to this in the newsletter. Kids fishing day is the first Saturday of June. It looks to be shaping up really well. Then comes the "on the water" meetings. These are my favorite meetings as I get a chance to fish with different people every time.

If you haven't joined the club forum you might want to. They are posting lots of pictures from events, fishing trips etc. Duffy posted a document on the spawning temperatures of various fish. I saw a couple of fishing reports from members who fished today. If you need help getting logged in be sure to talk to Tom R. or Chris S. at the next meeting. Its only open to the club members so we can keep in contact and share our fishing experiences.

If I don't see you on the water, I will see you at the next meeting. Enjoy the nice spring weather.

Spawning Temperatures (F)

Provided by Duffy Kopf

Sauger	40 - 45
Northern Pike	40 - 52
Walleye	45 - 50
Brook Trout	45 - 48
Brown Trout	47 - 52
Muskie	49 - 59
Rainbow Trout	50 - 55
White Bass	57 - 68
Smallmouth Bass	59 - 60
Yellow Bass	62 - 67
Black Crappie	62 - 68
Largemouth Bass	68 - 72
Bluegill	70 - 75
Channel Cat	75 - 80

Karlette

D&S Spring Seminars

04/05 Pat Klingelhoets	Pre-spawn Panfishing
04/12 Wally Banfi	Lower WI River Walleye
04/19 Travis Richardson	Lake Mendota Catfish
04/26 Dave Berg	Winnebago Walleyes
05/03 Ron Barefield	Opening Weekend
05/10 Mike Pecosky	Hooked on Madison Walleyes

All seminars are free

KIDS FISHING DAY




Save money. Live better.



THE YAHARA FISHING CLUB - MADISON, WI
Promoting Fishing Rights and Responsibilities since 1966

Wisconsin Southwestern Alliance, Ltd.
Wisconsin's Premier Quality Recreational Fishing





Fin Tech
Tackle & More



N P A A



PURE FISHING



GANDER WTR



DICK SMITH'S
LIVE BAIT & TACKLE

June 2, 2012 at the Warner Park Shelter from 8am-12pm
 First 300 kids 14 and under get a free rod/reel combo or tackle box
 Live bait provided and free instruction from club members
 NPAA Fishing Basics by Greg Karch @ 10:30 - Lunch @ 11:00
 This is the DNR Free Fishing Weekend - Door prizes
 Questions: Contact Jim Kloth 608-635-0116



Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 3271
Madison, WI 53704

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ @ _____

*An Organization to Educate, Protect and Propagate the Interests of All Fishermen in the Yahara Basin Area
Including all of Madison's Lakes*

Annual Dues:

Individual.....	\$25
Family.....	\$35
Youth Member.....	Free
(with paid membership)	

Except for special Summer "On the water" dates, meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Lakeside VFW Hall, John Nolan Dr, & Lakeside St. in Madison.

The next meeting is on **April 10** at 6 p.m., Olin boat Landing
The **General Membership meeting** to follow at **V.F.W. Hall**

Next Meeting: Greg Stacey, Retired DNR Warden

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April Events

April 10th,- Monthly meeting.-Meet at 6 p.m.
Olin Boat Landing, Boat and trailer cleaning.
Club Meeting to follow at V.F.W. No scheduled
speaker at the meeting.
April 12th, 14th, Lake WI outings. See P.5.

DNR Spring Hearings and Wisconsin Conservation Congress Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2012, 7:00 p.m Dane
Middleton Cross Plains Performing Arts
Center, 2100 Bristol St., Middleton, WI
53562

May Events

May 8, Monthly meeting at 7 p.m. V.F.W. Dave
Rowe, Wisconsin River walleye data

The Yahara Fishing Club's doors are open to **EVERYONE**, so invite a friend to the meeting!

President -Karlette Schoen ..242-8803 Director - Don Gostomski, 249-8250 Director - Mike Hutchen ...234-1590
Vice Pres. - Charlie Grimm .249-9694 Director - Paul Zoch 241-5443 Director - Don Hammes ... 836-1205
Secretary - Paul Nichols 309-335-6815 Director - Jesse Tougas831-3151 Director - Randy Winkleman 358-4885
Treasurer - Dennis Puser... ..576-0929 Director - Tom Klein225-4968

Check out our web page at:
www.yaharafishingclub.org



Yahara Fishing Club
P.O. Box 3271
Madison, WI 53704