



August
2011

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

The Jinx

By Tom Wilke

"The Jinx", as we had come to call it, started over 4 years ago. Dan (Lemke) and myself started fishing together for Muskys 4 plus years ago. We have enjoyed fishing Muskys together but soon started to realize we were having trouble landing a Musky when fishing together. We talked about fish we had caught with other people, but together only had close calls (some big northerns and muskys that were hooked but never landed).

A trip to Oneida county changed all that. We got to the lake on Tuesday June 28th with only 3 days to fish. We tried Tuesday to locate a Musky or two so we would have some fish we could work on catching, no such luck. Wednesday started out at 4:15am throwing topwater baits, spinnerbaits and bucktails (not even a follow), but we did catch a few northerns. Around 6:45am I suggested the edge of some reeds where we had some luck on a recent previous trip.

On Dan's 4th or 5th cast he hollered "I got one". As he turned from the back of his Ranger I expected to see a northern heading toward the boat. Dan's rod was bent at such an extreme angle that I knew it was no northern. I dropped my rod and grabbed the net. Dan said, "big fish" (and boy was he right). Dan was using a Bucher slop master, which is basically a spinnerbait with one hook. The pressure was on both of us as I watched the power his fish had. After a couple of powerful runs Dan was able to turn the fish towards the boat and the net. I got his enormous head in the net and tried to get the rest in, but the fish had the size and strength to slide out the back of the net and head under the boat. The rod was bent way over as the fish powered his way under Dan's boat. I was only hoping there was no weakness anywhere on his equipment or he was a goner. As Dan moved the fish into position again I realized I had to make sure I got all of him in the net this time. His head was soon in

again, and an additional deep scoop of the net resulted in the rest of him getting into the net. Soon after that the "high fives" started.

As Dan was removing the hook we realized the fish was hooked good and probably wouldn't have gotten off. Dan moved the fish back and forth from the net a couple of times for pictures. Our main concern was that we returned this beauty back to



the lake to fight another day. We both commented on the size head this fish had. Although a very nice 47", he looked like his head was from a 50" fish.

The jinx was finally officially over. I caught a much smaller one the next day to go with Dan's trophy fish. It took over 4 years but this beautiful fish made it seem worthwhile. There is nothing, in my opinion, that beats the battle with a big fish that has the strength and power of a large musky. Thanks to members of our club and other friends I have had this great experience with a few sizeable Mendota northerns and a few nice Muskys on this same Oneida lake where Dan caught his trophy. The big musky Dan caught (his personal best) will surely be something he will remember for a long time. I was just happy to be a part of his experience.

Slip bobbers on Devils's Lake

By Chris Spierings

At the May meeting I gave a quick rundown on how my family has learned to fish slip bobbers, largely as a result of our fishing Devils Lake North Dakota. On July 4 my son, Mitch, and I returned from our 4th trip to Devils Lake. Going out to the lake I have learned to watch a couple websites like FishingBuddy.com and Lake-Link for fishing reports and I noticed comments being made about the rebuilding effort at boat ramps and lots of road construction. I also heard the lake had grown by about another 50,000 acres or so. Depending on which numbers you use Devils Lake is now considered bigger than Lake Winnebago.

As luck would have it my Dad and step-brother, Dave, decided to head out a couple days early and before we left I was warned about how much road work was going on in the immediate Devils Lake area. You will be able to see from a couple pictures below that the lake has come up a lot. The Highway Department in North Dakota is working to raise just about every major highway close to the lake. Parts of the lake that were once accessible by boat by passing under a bridge don't look too inviting given the limited room under the bridges. We ended up adding an hour to our trip to avoid our planned route and stayed on highway 2 through Devils Lake until we reached Highway 281 and headed south toward Minnewaukan (on the West end of the lake) where we stopped and picked up a pound of leeches and headed for the place we stay.

Even the areas around Grand Forks and Fargo looked really wet and when we got close to Devils Lake it was very apparent why there was so much road construction. The back parking lot of JJ's Bait in Minnewaukan is now filled with a levee holding back the lake and the Minnewaukan boat landing is under one of those levees and now has been moved up by the city's new water tower and well south of town.

Our week on Devils Lake started out pretty cool and windy. Our first morning I was wondering where my stocking cap was when we were running across the lake at speed. In terms of the weather it was partly cloudy every day except one when it rained most of the day. If you are in North Dakota you better accept that you will have wind. Generally it ran from 15-25 mph with a couple days where it blew up in the 30s and 40s.

What struck me right away was how much the lake had changed. Our old honey holes were at least 5 feet deeper according to my locator. Even though we were a little over a week later than our usual timeframe for the trip the water was still very cool and clear and typically the fishing was good until about 10 and then really slow from 1-4 PM and got crazy from about 6:30- 9:30 or 10 PM when we headed in to avoid putting the lights on the boat.



Figure 1 - Devils Lake last year



Figure 2 - Devils Lake this year, same dock area. All the cut off stumps in picture above are under water.

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We relied on three primary approaches to fish this year:

Slip Bobbering – I covered this in May at the meeting. Basically we would find flooded timber usually a shoreline or fence line in about 5-15' of water and if it had an inside turn from a point or under water feature to funnel the fish up into the trees we would find fish. This year we seemed to have to go up in the size of hook to a number 4 from our usual 6 when using leeches on the bobbers. We caught hundreds of walleye around 12' and they seemed to be really adept at avoiding the hook until we went to the number 4 octopus style hooks.



Figure 3 one of the nicer slip bobber fish

Crankbaits– Normally we spend a lot of time fishing on Devils Lake using number 5 jointed shad raps in perch, firetiger and bleeding olive. This year I don't think we caught a dozen fish on the jointed shad raps all week. Casting these crankbaits usually meant lots of whitebass, pike and usually our biggest walleyes. Given the higher winds we experienced it was often difficult to cast them any distance. I have been hauling around a couple house payments worth of crankbaits for years so it was time to experiment a little and stumbled on a few that seemed to work a lot better than the others. First was the Bandit square bill crankbait. I think these are something the bass guys

are into but Gander was closing them out and I bought a couple. The one I did the best with was actually painted to look like a bluegill. I also found that the bluegill colored regular shad rap in the shallow runner and the number 5 caught fish. So here is my theory, given how clear the water was, the more realistic finish on those crankbaits performed better. We could often see down 8-10' which is unusual for that time of year.

The real winner for us turned out to be lipless crankbaits. I had a little luck on the Ratlin Rap and RatLTraps but because of my inability to resist marketing I had a few of Clackin Raps in the box and in a weak moment I let Mitch dig in my box and he tied on a silver one. I threw firetiger, perch and craw colored ones and caught nice fish on all of them. I am guessing that the different noise made them a little bit better. Guys who fish lots of Musky can relate to the rush you get when a fish crushes your crankbait close enough to see it all happen. That was a pretty common occurrence this year.



Figure 4 Mitch's 43" pike that inhaled the Clackin Rap

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Swimbait/Weedless Plastics – Another staple of our casting approach to walleye has been the Mimic Minnow. They cast great in the wind, weren't too expensive and they worked. We had our best luck throwing 3/8oz Bluegill and Perch Mimic Minnows. In the past the firetiger one was best but I think that clear water meant it needed to be more natural. On the second day I had a walleye that would have been my biggest walleye ever follow to the boat in 5' of water; it just wouldn't bite that bluegill Mimic Minnow.

A variation on the Mimic Minnows this year was the Reaction Innovations Little Dipper swimbait. Mitch has gotten the Bass fishing bug pretty bad (I blame the influence of some of the club's members) and he saw them at the Rogers MN Cabelas. We ran low on Mimic minnows and he rigged one of these up weedless and fired away. The neat thing about using that bait was how weedless it was. We started calling it "Snot Rocket Slop fishing". We would cast those things or weedless swim jigs up into the cane beds and bulrushes and seldom would you go more than a few casts without a pike taking it. If you did avoid the pike, which were on a serious rip this year, you would be able to interest a walleye when the lure broke free of cover on the edges.

With all the newly flooded farmland and tree lines we would often take a field that might be 20-30 acres and work it all over. The Minnkota is definitely 4 wheel drive for your boat on Devils Lake generally the inside turns in weedlines and pockets in the weeds and tree lines produced best and if the wind was blowing into those areas it was even better.

I kept a counter in the boat this year to see if my claims about numbers of fish were being too optimistic. I know that Mitch and I had four days where we boated at least 100 walleye. We also had two days where we had over 50 pike in the boat. The pike were very

aggressive this year and most ran between 20 and 30 inches. Walleye were all over the place in size, I caught one that was under 6" and my biggest was 24.5, the biggest of the trip, so size was down a bit this year but the quantity was still very good. Whitebass were the disappointing part of the trip. Usually with the casting you do you will stumble on a school and it's not uncommon to limit out in under an hour with 2 plus pound fish being the norm. This year we caught four.

For the trip we went through 3.5 pounds of leeches. I lost at least a dozen Mimic Minnows to bite offs. Mitch used up all his Little Dippers along with a half a dozen wild eye swim shad and a swim jig. This year we tried tying a Flouro leader on to the braid to see if it would reduce the bite offs. 17 pound wasn't strong enough. I am thinking 20 pound or more might be better. Anything to avoid using a leader, they pick up weeds and seem to negatively impact the lure action. According to my fishing log we spent about a total of 54 hours on the water in 6 days of fishing.

As you can probably gather from this article, we really enjoy fishing Devils Lake. North Dakota Game and Fish does a great job of managing the harvest on the lake. Years ago they had things get out of hand with the Jumbo perch, which are starting to recover, and took a more proactive stance on the other fish. The limits for walleye are 5 a day and 10 in possession no size limit but many of the people who fish the lake let the fish bigger than 20" go and several of the shops and guides are working to promote that approach. On Devils Lake it is also 5 daily, 10 fish possession limit with no length restriction on pike. Yellow Perch and White bass are 20 fish a day and an 80 fish possession limit.



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Notes From the Prez

Well, boys and girls it seems we will have a football season after all. I am almost as excited about the Badgers season as I am about the Packers. And the recent heat wave has me looking forward to autumn for other obvious reasons. There should be a law that we get a few more Octobers every year! I do enjoy some parts of high summer though.....we've been eating a lot of sweet corn and I need to get to the store today to buy a couple pounds of bacon.....lots of tomatoes getting' red.....BLTs!

A big shout out thank you to all who helped make another successful year at Fishing Has No Boundaries.....those who fished, cooked, served, and brought fish! Nice job! Please know that you are appreciated so very much. I've said it before and I'll say it again.....what a great fishing club!

This would be a good place to add another big thank you to our friend Gary Engberg for his contributions to the newsletter. Good fishing info! Gary's a great fisherman and a great guy. Be sure to check his website for even more tips. And speaking of the newsletter, be sure to send those big fish pictures in.....I always enjoy seeing whose got braggin' rights from month to month.

Looking ahead to August, our next meeting will be at Fish Camp on Lake Kegonsa on August 9.....short business meeting at 6pm and then some fishin' time. A reminder to all.....know the rules and make sure your fishing license is up to date.....we sure don't want anyone getting a citation during a club event.....and most definitely

if you are a guest in someone's boat, an offer to give them some gas money is nice.....I have heard this being done some at the last meeting and I like it.

My partner for this outing will be the club's resident "young gun" Daniel Puser.....and we're goin' bass fishin'. Bass like current, especially in the heat, and I'll probably be fishing near the launch in the river. Daniel expressed an interest in learning a little more about what tackle and baits I use. But, here's the deal.....I'll be watching him closely too. He's got the "skills to pay the bills" folks.....we can learn something from each and every member of this club. Maybe a bit of his energy will rub off on me.....jeez, I wish I had half of his strength and agility.....but, even though my best days are gone, I can still stick a few fish!

September brings the club back home to the VFW for our meeting on the 13th at 7pm. Please try to be there and be sure to get a few tickets for the fish fry on the 16th. This is a super way to treat a friend or neighbor to a dinner out.....and the club benefits greatly for funding many of our projects. Guaranteed.....the food will be great and plenty of it!

So here we go.....football's almost here.....and the Brewers are in first place! Doreen and I are going down next Wednesday to see them beat up the Cardinals.....and why not now that we can get tickets for half price. (I knew something good would come out of this aging process besides clumsiness!) Let's all get out there and catch a few fish before summer's gone.....or at least talk about it.....I'm always near 220-8934.

Charlie



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Dear Mr. Grimm,

Good afternoon. I am writing about the study we spoke about earlier on the phone for the DNR and the DHS through the University of Wisconsin. I want to thank you so much for helping us out with this project. As we spoke about on the phone; I am including here a short write-up about the project (Wisconsin Anglers Study) for the Yahara Fishing Club's monthly newsletter:

We are excited to introduce you to the Wisconsin Anglers Study! This study is being conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of the study is to learn about the kinds of fish Wisconsin anglers eat and awareness of different health advisories about fish. The Wisconsin Anglers Study will be conducted with Wisconsinites this fall, and we are hoping to hear from you not only about your fishing habits, but also about how we can improve the survey before making it available to the general public. In a few weeks, you will receive an email invitation asking you to participate in this important study. The first 25 people to complete the survey will receive \$25 as a thank you for your help. We look forward to hearing from you!"

I have also attached a copy of the study logo in case you want to include it in the newsletter. We will be in touch again in the next few weeks once we have the survey up and running. At that time we will send you the web address so that you can forward it on to your members.

If you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to contact me. You can also contact my colleague Lisa Klein (she is cc'd on this email) Lisa will most likely be the one sending you another email in August. Thank you again for your help.

Megan Meinen

YFC members.....there is a possibility that Dane Co parks may acquire some land near tank farms in the future.....they are seeking a letter stating our approval and support of this.....long overdue.....parking has always been a problem.....i have been asked to write this letter (one for the Expo/Chuck Rolfsmeyer as well).....i am working on both now.....anyone opposed.....??.....please e-mail me soon.....nothing will be mailed for a day or two but time is important here.....let me know if you have a problem.....thanks

Charlie



Karlette and Jack at the last outing



Duffy with Donna from the Fishing Has No Boundaries outing.

Upcoming Outings

Sturgeon on the Lower St. Croix. After a successful outing last September where everyone caught at least one Sturgeon, this outing is back by popular demand. The dates are Friday, Sept. 23, 24, and 25. We will be staying at a discounted rate at the Quality Inn in Hudson, WI. It is important for me to know who is planning on going and if they can bring a boat. This is anchored fishing in current with some boat travel to get to the farther holes. Also available is Walleye and Muskie action.

Please contact me ASAP if you plan on attending, email, tom_klein@dishmail.net or cell, (608) 225-4968.

Clements Fishing Barge on the Mississippi. This will be a one day trip on Oct. 18. We will car pool, no boat necessary. Target species are Walleye, Sauger, Perch and whatever else the river provides. More detail to follow.

Lake Mendota Walleye. After two outings with poor success, we will give this one more shot and hopefully hit the bite. This is a fun evening outing off the Tenny breakwater. Date to be decided.

Ice fishing hunt for Perch on Lake Monona. Our own John Kanvik will be guiding and we need as many ATV's as possible to haul members to various locations on the lake. John has been quite successful at catching these yummys. Early to mid January date to be announced.

February Whitefish outing. Icing a bunch of Whitefish should be a ball. Our own Guy Pappa will be our guide as he is familiar with the waters of Green Bay and has been quite successful at this endeavor and has property in the area. ATV's will be a must and we will ATV pool as much as possible, we will not take vehicles on the ice of Green Bay. This could be a weekend or a one day outing. Early Feb. date and more info to follow.

March and April outings yet to be decided, provide me with any suggestions.

May . Likely we will hit the Fox River out of Oshkosh for the White Bass run. A good time was had by all last May w/ mixed success. More detail later.

Tom Klein

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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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.

*An Organization to Educate, Protect and Propagate the Interests of All Fishermen in the Yahara Basin Area
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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, August 9th**, at Fish Camp on Lake Kegonsa

The **General Membership meeting starts at 6:00 pm.**

Next Meeting: Fish Camp on Lake Kegonsa

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August Events

August 9th On the water club meeting, Lake Kegonsa, Fish Camp Park, 6:00 PM

September Events

Sept 13th. Regular monthly meeting at the VFW hall.

Sept. 23, 24, and 25. Sturgeon on the Lower St. Croix.

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

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