



Editor: Tom Raschke (traschke@globaldialog.com) or 608-233-6765

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

Middleton- A good neighbor to Lake Mendota

Notes by Stan Nichols

Penny Klein, Middleton public lands manager, along with Dan Salas of JFNew Company updated YFC members on environmental efforts the City of Middleton has done or is planning to do to help protect and enhance the fishery and environmental quality of Pheasant Branch Creek and Lake Mendota.

Penny started the discussion by describing some of the efforts Middleton has recently undertaken. These include upgrading the Lake Street boat ramp by building a 40-foot apron and dredging the landing for deeper access. The dredge spoils were placed in biofiltration bags and allowed to dewater. The resulting sediment has been used for landscaping purposes on both public and private land. Middleton also dredged Pheasant Branch Creek up to Century Avenue. This removed sediment destined for Lake Mendota and ties into projects further upstream. A proposed project is to turn an area along Allen Boulevard, known as the PDQ site that was a previous dredge spoils area into a fish-rearing pond for northern pike. Penny also has in the back of her mind to convert an area along Pheasant Branch Creek, above Century Avenue into a pike spawning area and make a trail in this area that will allow handicap accessible fishing.

Dan Salas provided a more detailed description of restoration efforts along upper reaches of Pheasant Branch Creek. The creek is in an urbanized area so it is "flashy"-water flows can vary considerably over a short period of time. The soil is sandy so it is highly erodible. This presents many engineering challenges for stream restoration. JFNew's approach is to use "ecological stabilization". The objectives for the Pheasant Branch restoration are to make deeper pools, more variable

water flows, place woody structure in the stream, improve access, and restore native vegetation. This is done using root wads, stream barbs, bio-swales, vortex weirs, and riprap.

A root wad is the lower one-third of a tree trunk with attached roots buried horizontally in the stream bank, perpendicular to the water flow. The roots are left dangling in the water. This mitigates bank erosion and provides habitat for a variety of aquatic and terrestrial creatures. A stream barb is a small, rock wing dam angled upstream. Again it protects the bank from erosion and speeds water flow in the center of the stream. A vortex weir is a V-shaped, rock structure with the open part of the V upstream. It changes stream flow and helps deepen areas below the structure. It is sort of a double stream barb. Bio-swales are upland, vegetated ditches that slow down run-off into the stream. In real high energy areas of stream flow riprap, or in other words armoring the stream bank with rock is still needed to prevent erosion.

Dan provided some statistics that I didn't get written down, on how many thousand feet of stream bank has been restored and how many tons of sediment has been removed from the stream. All this will hopefully enhance the fishery and general environmental quality in the Pheasant Branch area. For more information and maps go to www.pheasantbranch.org.

One of the more amazing things about Penny's talk was her ability to put together good projects and get them funded through a variety of federal, state, local, and private sources. Keep up the good work Penny! Perhaps you can give more lessons to the rest of us.

Tenney Park Breakwater, Thursday November 12th 2009



Not many fish were caught, but the weather and company was great.

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Mike's Prop Shop

This shop offers a 10% discount to members of the Yahara Fishing Club. They have repaired several of my props, a skeg, and welded a sailboat rudder back together. All were done expertly.

Editor

Notes From The Prez

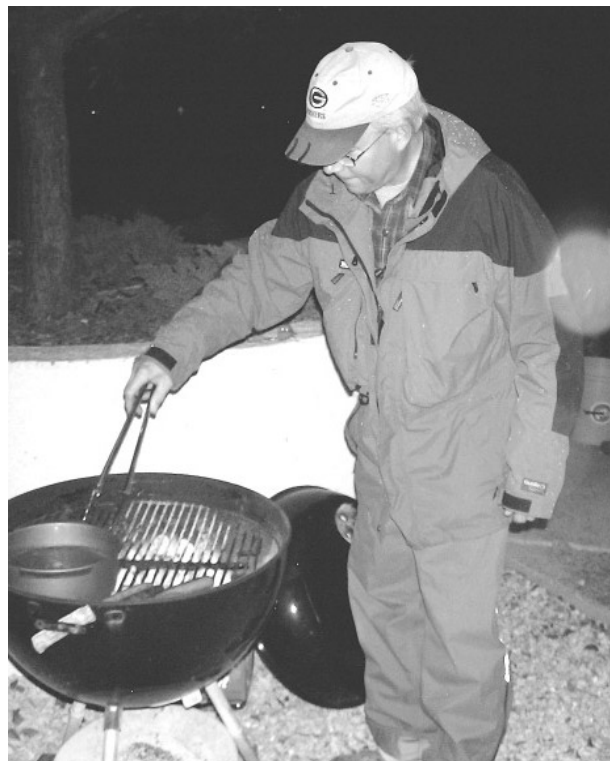
Well this is certainly an autumn with the winds of change blowing for me. First, retirement from the Post Office after 29 years delivering Special Delivery and Express mail. Also, back on the Board of Directors of the Yahara Fishing Club after 15 years or so.....and being asked to serve again as President. Have to admit, with a big lifestyle change spinning my head already.....i was a bit reluctant. But this club and this great group of friends who all share my love of fishing were the big reason I said yes. Our club has always meant a lot to me since 1986 when I joined and I am honored to serve again. Along with my duties as secretary of the Madison Fishing Expo I should stay pretty busy but we have a great Board of Directors who have promised their support.....and besides, as my wife Doreen reminded me, it might help keep me out of trouble!

The next thing I want to be sure to do is thank all those who just retired from the Board of Directors. Rick Seeger, Clay Russell, Jesse Swing, and of course, Duffy Kopf should all take a well deserved pat on the back. Take a minute next time you talk to them and thank them for all they have done and for a job well done!! My agenda is to change very little about our club.....only to continue to make it fun!

Looking ahead to our calendar of events, I hope everyone will come to the December 8 meeting/Christmas party/potluck. Please bring a dish to pass and your spouse, a friend, or a former member you might know who belongs back in our club. Last year we had this event planned and had to cancel it because of heavy snow. Here's hoping we can make it work this year.

The Kid's Ice Fishing Day is planned for Sat. Jan 16 and most of you are familiar with what happens for this event.....stay tuned for further details but please know we need lots of help at this event to make sure each kid gets to fish, gets a fish, and gets some warm food!

Our February 9 meeting will be our annual auction. This is a super fun evening of bidding on donated items and a great fund raiser for the club as well. Please bring a few items to donate, a little spending money, and remember that Valentine's day is the following weekend so pick up something special for your spouse or special friend!



New YFC President Charlie Grimm

And, of course, February 26,27,28 is the 25th Madison Fishing Expo. This should be a good one with a great line-up of speakers for the weekend. Our resident "frog man" Rick Krueger will be returning with his underwater slide show of the Madison Chain and ice fishing guru Dave Genz will speak both Sat. and Sun., just to name a few. The club will have their usual booth, raffle, and, of course, the opportunity to show off and sign up some new members. More on this as we get closer to the show.

Well, that's a lot going on in just the next 3 months. This fishing club rocks!! Of course, all of this means some measure of work too but if it's about fishin', then for me it's a labor of love! I hope it is for you too and please consider that we still have a couple openings on the Board of Directors and that all members are always welcome at the board meetings as well as to assist the directors on their respective committees.

YFC 2010 Calendar

January 16th - Kid's Ice Fishing Day

February 8th YFC December Monthly Meeting at the VFW hall. Our February 9 meeting will be our annual auction.

February 26,27,28 Madison Fishing Expo.

June - Kids fishing day. This coincides with the Wisconsin free fishing weekend.

July 10-11th - Fishing has no boundaries

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2009 - 2010 Ice Fishing Seminars

Date	Speaker	Topic
12/03	Pat Westberg	Icing Pike
12/10	Jason Burnham	Late Ice Opportunitoes
12/17	Ron Barefield	Panfish and Plastics



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WDNR - Musky anglers get a holiday bonus: a longer season

Southern zone musky season runs through Dec. 31.

The southern zone musky season is open through Dec. 31, giving anglers another month to land a trophy. They have another month – until the end of December -- to fish for the famed fighters in Wisconsin waters south of U.S. Highway 10. “We’re happy to provide the anglers of Wisconsin with a holiday bonus: an opportunity to fish at a time of the year when many trophy fish are caught,” says Mike Staggs, Wisconsin’s fisheries director Resources fisheries supervisor for south central Wisconsin. The longer season for the southern zone waters was approved by anglers during the 2008 spring rule hearings, and was initiated and guided through the process by the Capital City Chapter of Muskies Inc. and Scot Stewart, Department of Natural Resources.

Several factors came together to make the longer season a reality, Stewart says. For starters, there is little or no reproduction in southern waters – the fish are raised at DNR hatcheries and stocked -- so there is no impact on spawning fish of a longer season. In addition, protective regulations and a catch and release ethic that means that 98 percent of all musky caught are released, also convinced Stewart and the Cap City Chapter of Muskies Inc. that there wouldn’t be any harm and that a longer season was worth the effort to get a season extension through the rules process.

Jim Olson, president of Cap City Muskies, also noted that another reason for the season extension was the fact that southern lakes are freezing over later in the year, allowing boats on the lakes later. “The State Climatology Office has records dating to 1850. The median date for Monona to freeze over is December 15 and for Wingra is November 29. However, in the last 10 years the median date for Monona to freeze over has been December 28 and five times in the last 10 years Monona has not frozen over until January,” he said. His research also indicates that above normal weather is predicted for December 2009, so we will probably have open water on Monona for much, if not all, of December.”

Olson notes that the late fall has traditionally been a good time to fish “so it will be interesting to see if that trend extends through December. In northern Wisconsin, typically the largest fish are caught later in the fall, so if you translate that to southern Wisconsin, it might mean some good fishing late in the year.” “There were two muskies, that we know of, that were caught and released by club members that exceeded 50 inches – and that is the mark that everyone shoots for.” Olson plans to be out in his boat, taking advantage of the new opportunity and hoping the Madison lakes give up a lunker.

Stewart expects he’ll have plenty of company. “I went over to the Olin boat ramp (on Madison’s Lake Monona) Sunday and it was pretty full. I know the trucks and they are all musky anglers. They are definitely out fishing right now, and unless the weather gets too nasty, I expect that to continue.”

The southern zone musky season closes Dec. 31. While there is a 45 inch minimum length limit for fish caught and kept from the Madison lakes, the southern zone regulations call for a 34 inch minimum size length and a daily bag of one. For regulations specific to the water you plan to fish, check the 2009-2010 Guide to Hook and Line Regulations. Find lists of musky waters in Wisconsin, and more information on muskellunge and musky fishing on the Wisconsin Musky page of the DNR Web site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scot Stewart (608) 273-5967;

Tim Simonson (608) 266-5222

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1 – Jiffy STX Pro 3 HP Ice Drill with 8” drill assembly. Retail price is \$470 and will sell for \$300.

1 – Jiffy STX Pro Lectric Jiffy Ice Drill with 8” drill assembly. Retail price is \$380 and will sell for \$240.

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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.

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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, December 8th**, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Rr. & Lakeside St.)
The Board Of Directors meet at 5:45 pm, The **General Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm.**

Pot Luck

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December Events

December 8th - YFC December Monthly Meeting at the VFW hall.
This meeting is a Pot Luck. See President's comments on Page 3.

January Events

January 12th - YFC December Monthly Meeting at the VFW hall.
Details to be announced. Watch the YFC Website if this needs to be cancelled because of bad weather.

January 16th - Kid's Ice Fishing Day

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

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