



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

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

## Do It Yourself Fish

*Meeting notes by Stan Nichols*

If you ever had a Door County fish boil, you likely ate whitefish. Whitefish are closely related to ciscoes that you may have netted or caught in Lake Mendota or in Big Green Lake. On average whitefish are larger than ciscoes and somewhat more distantly related to trout and salmon. Historically they are a commercial fish caught in pond nets in the Great Lakes. They spawn on shallow, rocky reefs in the fall, generally around Thanksgiving, and then disperse back to the open water of the lakes. In the last few years they have been staying on the shallow reefs during the winter so they are accessible to sports anglers. The reason for this change in habit isn't known but some speculate that gobies, accidentally introduced into the Great Lakes, hang out on the reefs in the winter so they provide food for whitefish.

The Yahara Fishing Club is planning an outing next February to go to the Door County side of Green Bay to fish for whitefish- the makings for your own fish boil, smoked, or baked whitefish. Member Guy Ringle demonstrated the techniques for catching white fish at the November meeting.

The first item when fishing big water (or any water for that fact) like Green Bay is safety. The ice can be constantly shifting with a change in the wind. Expansion cracks can open so anglers have had to be rescued by the Coast Guard and leave their equipment on the ice until they could safely return to get it. Blowing snow or fog can cause whiteout conditions so you can't see shore. Carry a compass or GPS unit if going on your own. The reefs are typically in eight to 50-feet of water and some are four to five miles offshore. Guy typically fishes in the 20-25-foot range. The club plans to go with an outfitter for the initial trip to learn some techniques and issues for catching whitefish.

To catch whitefish Guy uses a medium or medium-light action ice fishing rod (typically a light walleye or heavy perch rod). The spinning reel is spooled with six-to-eight pound fused main line. Guy uses six-pound Crystal Fire Line. He ties a barrel swivel to the main line and adds about 12-inches of six-pound fluorocarbon leader with a cross-lock snap at the end. For terminal tackle he uses size-3 or -4 Swedish Pimples in gold, pearl white or silver all with cracked ice tape; gold shiner or silver shiner Macho Minnows; or size J2, jigging Rapalas in gold/black, silver/black, or perch colors. Generally, Guy prefers gold colors.

Guy also has a trick that helps take more fish. Before tying the barrel swivel to the main line he puts on a gold, size 12 treble hook or a large tear drop ice jig on so it slides up and down the main line. He baits the jig or treble with wax worms. Although he prefers live wax worms, Gulp wax worms can also work and make a good backup. He tears the heads off of medium sized river shiners to bait the jigging spoon or jigging Rapalas. Bring a large supply of wax worms and minnows. The limit on whitefish is 10 per day but you are likely to lose a lot of them.

A fish locator ups your success rate and Guy uses a variety of jigging techniques from subtle to "pounding" the bottom. He also recommends a fairly large ice hole (8-inches) because the whitefish zig and zag there way to the surface and it is best to slide them out the edge of the hole. They have a soft mouth so you may lose them by trying to pull them straight out of the hole. Whitefish generally weigh about 1-to-3 pounds and put up a good fight on light tackle.

*Continued next page*

### YFC January Outing

The whitefish bite usually starts in the southern part of Green Bay, around Dykesville and works its way north to Sturgeon Bay as the winter progresses. There may also be opportunities to catch other fish like perch or walleyes but you may have to move locations.

For a fish boil start out with a pot of water and boil up some potatoes, carrots, and onions, when the veggies are nearly cooked add chunks of white fish. Cook until the fish flakes, it usually isn't very long, about 5-to-10 minutes. Pour off the water and serve with melted butter (who can go wrong with plenty of melted butter). If you do it for "show" like some of the commercial places in Door County, you do it over an outdoor, wood fire and throw a little diesel on at the end to make the pot boil over to get the sludge off the top. I am not recommending the size of pot, seasoning, or amount of fish. That all depends on individual taste, the number of fish you have, and how many people you are feeding. It makes an easy one-pot meal.

Other than that you need your standard ice fishing gear-hole scoop, pail to carry gear or fish, ice creepers, ice auger, warm clothes, fishing license and lunch or refreshments. If you have any further questions you can contact Guy at 608-286-0053 or [guy.ringle@wpsic.com](mailto:guy.ringle@wpsic.com).

The tentative date is Friday, 1/20 and the plan is to fish Monona for perch. Please pencil in the date.

We plan to form small groups who will explore different (pre-identified) portions of the lake in hopes of finding schools of perch. Cell phones will help to put everyone on fish, once they are located.

We'll most likely gather at Olbrich Beach and set out from there. ATV's would be a great help! Otherwise, it will be a long walk. The weather, amount of snow on the ice (if we have to walk) and prior success at finding any perch will all be considered before finalizing the details for this outing.

But get your Swisher Rods oiled so you'll be ready to go.

John Kanvik

### YFC Dues

As the year 2011 is rapidly coming to an end, it is time to renew your membership in the Yahara Fishing Club.

You can pay your dues at the December meeting or by sending your check to the club's post office box:

P O Box 3271  
Madison 53704.

Individual memberships are still \$25.00 and family memberships are \$35.00. The money raised from the annual dues is used to cover the cost of operating the Fishing club

### D&S Bait Ice Fishing Seminar Schedule

- 12/01 Brian Moe Panfish Plastics
- 12/08 Pat Klingelhoets Overlooked Nearby Hot-spots
- 12/15 Pat Westburg Big Pike Fishing

These are at the store at 1411 Northport Dr, Madison, WI (608)241-4225 at 7:00pm on Thursday evening and are FREE to the public.

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## Survey looks at why anglers stopped fishing for trout

Weekly News Article Published: October 18, 2011 by the [WDNR](#)

MADISON -- More than 800 anglers who haven't fished for inland trout the past three years will have a chance to tell the state why they've hung up their fly rods and spin casting rods and are no longer seeking the wily trout in Wisconsin.

The Department of Natural Resources mailed out surveys earlier this month to more than 800 randomly picked fishing license holders who had once been trout anglers but who had not bought a trout stamp that would allow them to fish for trout in Wisconsin's inland waters since 2008.

"What we're trying to find out is what are the reasons that people are no longer fishing and is there anything we can do about that," says Marty Engel, a Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist stationed in Baldwin.

"Obviously, angler retention is as important to us as any business. We want to know what the reasons are, and if there is anything we can do to address things like access or regulations, or anything else under our control."

The survey is part of Wisconsin's ongoing [review of inland trout fishing](#). Participants at public meetings last spring got to tell DNR fish biologists what they like about trout fishing now and what they think could be improved. Meeting participants also filled out a survey to give more specific feedback on all aspects of trout fishing and management in Wisconsin, and nearly 2,000 completed the same survey online.

A second mail survey will go out later this fall to randomly selected trout anglers. DNR researchers are using results from the previous surveys available at the public meetings and online to help fine-tune the questions for the mail survey, which also will ask about angler effort, catch and harvest.

Jordan Petchenik, a DNR social researcher, is working with trout researchers, on the survey that seeks to find out why once avid anglers quit.

Petchenik worked with DNR's licensing staff to run a query of the automated licensing system to see how many people bought a trout stamp for every year 2004-2008 but stopped buying the stamp after 2008. That total was 2, 268. Those people received a letter to verify their address was still current. The survey design called for 800 of them to get a survey in the mail to fill out and return. The surveys were mailed out the second week of October.

"We know that the people who dropped out for the last three years had been dedicated trout anglers at one time because they had purchased trout stamps for five consecutive years," Petchenik says.

Results from the mail survey of anglers who have fallen away from the sport in Wisconsin's won't be available until the end of the year, he says.

Engel hopes the results will offer DNR important insights into trout fishing and trout management, and how DNR can work to improve both. "It's been more than 20 years since we surveyed trout anglers, and I don't think we've ever surveyed people who hung it up to find out why they did or what we can do to get them back."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: about survey methodology contact Jordan Petchenik (608) 266-8523; about how survey results will be used contact Scot Stewart (608) 273-5967 or Marty Engel (715) 684-2914 ext 110


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## Upcoming Outings as of December 2011

See John Kanvik's article for Monona Perch outing in January on page 2. If you have an ATV set up for the Madison chain and can help move people over the ice to various locations, please let me know. The date is Jan 20th, a Friday. John will not be able to attend the Dec. meeting so I will do a quick poll at the Dec. meeting to see if there is interest for a second day on Sat., Jan 21st. We will do a final tally at the January meeting.

The Feb. 10th, 11th and 12th Whitefish extravaganza is going well. Guy Ringle has 4 shacks booked for Saturday and probably one or two for Sunday. We have about 17 persons signed up for Saturday fishing. For those who were not sure about Sunday, please let us know if you are fishing and want to rent a shack. Being that shacks may be at a premium on Sunday, your prompt response is important or you may be left fishing out in the cold.

For March, we scuttled a Clements Barge trip last year because of weather. March can be really good on the river, it could be a short notice trip working with the weather and fishing reports.


April is open – suggestions are welcome or if you have a hot tip or know a person who does well in April, let me know so we can plan an April outing. This could be an educational trip/tour, we did the Wild Rose hatchery last year.

For May, last years' Whitebass outing was very well attended w/ requests to repeat it this year. So plan on an outing to the Fox River in Oshkosh the third week in May, a one day trip, probably Saturday the 19th.

Devils Lake, ND June 16 -23 has a number of persons signed up. This is a major outing for Walleye and Northern, and other species. I have booked a large, brand new, cabin at Lakeview Lodge (lakeviewlodge.com) which accommodates up to 10 persons. It is a 2 story w/ 2 bedrooms up and 2 down, 2 bathes and 2 TV rooms, full kitchen and sitting area. If 9 plus persons sign up, the cost will be \$42/per night per person, if less than 9 persons, the cost per nite will be more, max of \$62.50 per nite per person. If more than 10 sign up, overflow can be accommodated in the main lodge. All their other cabins are booked. In addition, I have booked a 16' Crestliner w/ 50HP outboard for Roger Swensen who doesn't want to trailer his boat to ND. We need a \$50 deposit to hold lodging and a final count the first week in Jan. 2012.

Thanks, Tom Klein

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Notes From the Prez

So I get this thing in the mail from MSCR about classes to improve my health and life. You know, stuff like yoga, ballroom dancing, smart money, salt-free cooking, computer basics, etc. All good stuff to be sure.....and stuff that could help me! Then I see this other little section about a one-day bus trip to Chicago's Michigan Ave. to go shopping. Now you probably can guess where this is going. I asked my wife if she'd like to go.....uh-oh, bad idea. So, we're signed up. This coming Saturday Dec. 3. One of the busiest shopping days of the year. On the "Miracle Mile". Can ya' dig it? A whole mile of stores.....only one resembles a fishing store.....Orvis! You know, \$400 fly rods and clothes that make a guy look like he stepped right out of a page from an Eddie Bauer catalog. That's me for sure!

Anyway, we are taking a metro bus from our drop off point to the Shedd Aquarium for a couple of hours and then it's back to Crate 'n Barrel, the American Girl Store, the Disney Store, and hopefully, lunch at someplace with beer and very greasy cheeseburgers.....probably about \$12 cheeseburgers. My plan now is to be back to LaFollette High School parking lot at 7pm.....in my garage at 7:10pm.....and in my recliner at 7:15pm for the Wisconsin-Michigan State game. And as my good buddy Jim Pankratz told me last night at the Fishing Expo meeting, when I told him my plan....."and by 7:20 you'll be asleep."

Well, here we are a day short of December. Waiting for ice now to sit on. Got a bit of venison

in the freezer.....not because of anything I did! Only because of the generosity of my friends Al Phelan (who shot her) and his brother George (who cut her up while I manned the freezer paper) did I make chili yesterday without having to buy burger at Woodman's! But we're all good over here at the Grimm residence.....got a few lights put up, probably get a Christmas tree tomorrow, and then... ..that slice of heaven called Christmas cookies!

And that brings us to the Christmas party on December 13.....we'll have a short business meeting to keep things running smoothly.....as they always do. Then it's pot luck time! Yummy! Bring a dish to pass.....I like shrimp! And any kind of sausage or those little wieners. And that cheesy/salsa stuff to dip little corn chips in. All approved by your cardiologist I'm sure. Please be sure to take back home anything the membership doesn't devour.....too hard to clean it all up.

We'll be announcing the new club officers.....elected at the board meeting at 6pm.....by the way, welcome to Randy, Paul, and Don to the board.....also the Pete Froland Award.....and the fishing contest winners. We can discuss upcoming events like the Kid's Ice Fishing Day and the Madison Fishing Expo.....and a few winter outings.....let's try to forget November 10 at Tenney Park.....although the food was tasty. So I hope to see you all there.....and I hope this finds you in the true Christmas spirit. I know I'll still be glowing from my shopping trip to Chicago. And if I'm not.....someone please buy me one of those dark beers on tap. Wishing you and yours a merry and blessed Christmas! Charlie and Doreen.....220-8934



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## **Proposed Hydro at the dam above the Clements barge - Background**

Back in 2008, a limited liability corporation named Mississippi 8 Hydro was granted a preliminary permit to study a hydroelectric project using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Lock and Dam No. 8 in Vernon County.

Last month, Symbiotics, LLC, on behalf of Mississippi 8 Hydro, filed a pre-application document with the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC). The document said Mississippi 8 Hydro is pursuing a new hydroelectric license for its Lock and Dam 8 Hydroelectric Project.

The preliminary permit information filed by Mississippi 8 Hydro calls for a new powerhouse and switchyard, four turbine/generator units with a combined capacity of 35 megawatts; and a new three-mile long 69-kilovolt transmission line extended from the switchyard to a local utility's distribution system .

### **Part of an email from the Clements barge manager**

There are two companies trying to get a permit at Lock 8. Our petition that we started is to prevent hydro within the refuge, at least until some better technology comes out (and they are working on it). The problem I see with stopping one company is once they are out, another one jumps in. Can you imagine how much of your DNR dollars are going to just deal with one company after another! Money that should be put to better use. Anyway, that is the petition we started.

The two companies that are putting in bids against each other at Lock 8 are lying through their teeth on several of their facts. First is their output, projected output. One company bases their AVERAGE output on a 10 foot head. Look at how low the water is right now...and its only 9.4! We don't average a 10 foot head (perhaps one month in a normal year). Fish kill, one company estimates 500,000 fish, that is their estimate given freely guess how much higher it must be...I heard they offered to pay the state for how many they kill! Really, all the egg layers gone will decimate the river. One company wants to forgo any testing and use the results of a hydro dam on the Ohio river...huge difference between these two rivers. It goes on and on. I will post the address for FERC once we know who to talk about. I suggest we get in touch with Congressmen, Senators and state politicians. My plan to start is to get all the counties along the river to condemn hydro, send that to FERC, Federal officials and our Governor. Not sure what else to do but willing to take suggestions...

Lets face it, if hydro produced a ton of power, then sportsman haven't a chance here. We are talking about very little power because of the low heads on the river, hardly any jobs will be created(other than initial construction) and the loss of business and jobs up and down the refuge would be considerable. My opinion is that there is a lot of stimulus money available and politicians like the "feel good" politics "green" creates. Another thing to mention and then I will shut up. ...Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse got out of their deal with Hydro...it wasn't profitable or environmentally feasible. ...Once again, if you have any ideas please let us know...you can certainly email me for more information or comments. I have all the figures at least for Lock 8.

Clements Fishing Barge  
(608) 689-2800

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All Star IM10X 6' m/f with a Shimano Sedona 2500FB reel. Retails for \$160. I will sell for \$50

All Star hand made T40 Series 6' m/f rod with a Pflueger Supreme XT reel. Retails for \$275. Will sell for \$100.

All reels have been serviced regularly. I bring all of these items to the Dec. meeting if you want to look at them. If you buy and it doesn't work (reasonable amount of time), I will buy it back.

Duffy Kopf  
608-576-2700 (C)  
608-849-7245 (H)  
ljkopf@tds.net

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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  
Including all of Madison's Lakes*

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, December 13th**, at the VFW Hall

The **General Membership meeting** starts at **7:00 pm**.

**This is the Christmas Pot Luck**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### December Events

December 13th VFW Hall - Annual Christmas meeting

### January Events

January 10th VFW Hall - Chris James from Dane County Parks will discuss the boat ramps and landings in the county, including restrictions.

January 20th. Perch outing on Monona. See John Kanvik or page 2 for details.

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

President - Charlie Grimm ...249-9694	Director - Tom Wilke .....834-9554	Director - Roger Swenson 752-6825
Vice Pres. - Don Hammes ... 836-1205	Director - Jeff Wydeven 848-4542	Director - Jim Kloth .....635-0116
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Check out our web page at:  
[www.yaharafishingclub.org](http://www.yaharafishingclub.org)



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