



May 2007

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The Secrets of Lure Reflectivity and Gloss

By Stan Nichols

How much difference does a lure's "shine" make? Maybe quite a bit according to Warren Zaren, April's YFC meeting speaker. Warren is a long-time bass tournament angler, primarily in southeast Wisconsin, but he also works doing research in the paint and coating industry. He has access to a variety of instruments that measure reflectivity, light transmission, color; etc. Most of these instruments are well beyond the cost of the ordinary angler.

He originally got the idea that the light reflected off a lure, or reflectivity might make a difference catching fish. He was fall fishing on bright, moonlit nights for walleyes in Sturgeon Bay and not catching them. He was catching northern pike and other fish that were attacking his flashy lure. He thought that the lure he was using was too bright and scaring the walleyes so he "dulled" it up with a scratch pad. It worked and he began catching walleyes. This led to his research testing the reflectivity of natural baits and fishing lures.

Every lure in your tackle box has light properties. It reflects some light, it absorbs some light, and it transmits some light. The amount of light reflected doesn't depend on the color of the lure but on the smooth-

ness of the lure surface. Reflectivity is the ratio of the light reflected from a surface compared to total available light. It is measured in gloss units (G.U.). For comparison, a mirror has a reflectivity of about 850 G.U., most new cars about 700 G.U., a new white refrigerator about 250 G.U. and a piece of white computer paper about 4G.U.

The first thing to look at is the coloration and reflectivity of natural bait. Prey species didn't evolve to stand out in the crowd where they can be eaten. Just look at the coloration. Many prey species are dark on the top so they blend into the bottom when looked at from the top and they are light on the bottom so they blend into the sky when looked at from the bottom – natural camouflage. The same principle works for reflectivity. Although a golden shiner looks flashy, it has a low reflectivity – about 5-6 G.U. Other prey or bait species including perch, hog suckers and leeches all had a reflectivity less than 9 G.U. Why? Fish have scales and scales have ridges that increase the roughness and decrease the reflectivity. Scale are luminous, they pass light through rather than reflect it.

So how does gloss or reflectivity

fit into your lure selection? Warren's recommendation is to use a high gloss lure for actively feeding fish, medium gloss for neutral fish, and low gloss for negatively feeding fish. Remember his walleye experience. A high reflectivity may have scared fish rather than attracting them. He didn't give any specific G.U. recommendations. Gloss and reflectivity are relative.

How does the G.U. of natural bait compare with that of lures? The lures with the highest reflectivity were Johnson Silver Minnows, and flat-sided, lipless crank baits like Ratt-L-Traps. A golden Ratt-L-Trap had a G.U. of about 550. He would use a lure with a high reflectivity in a clear lake on a heavily clouded day.

Besides scuffing the lure with a scratch pad or rubbing it with scouring powder, ways of reducing reflectivity is to select lure that are patterned or are long and rounded versus smooth and flat-sided. Many Rapala lures including Rattlin-Raps and traditional Rapala minnows ranged from 10 to 65 G.U., much closer to the range of natural minnows.

Soft plastic baits can't be compared to hard baits for reflectivity. Soft plastics have a low G.U., about 2.5 to 12.5. Warren divides soft plastics into three groups. Those that have weak color, in other words

Reflectivity, Continued

you can see light through them in colors like motor oil or purple. These colors are increasingly hard to find but work well in shallow water. Medium color soft plastics allow some light to penetrate and usually have some metal flake in them such as watermelon flake. These are good all around lures. Strong color lures like black, purple, and red shad allow no light to penetrate. They work well in dark or deep-water situations.

Plastic swimbaits were another topic discussed. Warren believes the reflective tape inside these lures makes them successful. He thinks the reflective tape mimics the silver peritoneum lining the gut cavity of minnows

A final topic was fluorescence and phosphorescence. These lures emit light from a chemical reaction, not reflectivity. Many have rough surfaces so their reflectivity is low. Recommended use-dirty water and low light situations.

What did I learn from all this? One look through my tackle box and I wasn't worried about most of my lures being too reflective. My old Silver Minnow is pretty scuffed up and worn down to the brass in places

Fishing Green Bay

I will be fishing Green Bay the weekend of May 19/20. If anyone would like to go along you are welcome to join me. I know I will have a couple of boats going so far, not sure on available space. I am full. I will be more than happy to provide you with information on where to fish and what has worked for me in the past. Fishing will primarily be trolling out in the bay, but there are many spots within a mile of the launches that hold good fish. The river will also still hold fish, but the bigger ones will most likely have moved out into the bay. We have caught many 5 - 10lb fish this time of year. Fish are not good to eat, but fun to catch.

I don't know when Musky season opens for that area, but we have caught and seen numerous big fish while fishing for wall-eye. I am planning on leaving Sat. morning and coming back Sunday afternoon

Please let me know if you are interested, if you have a boat or if you want to ride in someone else's boat. I will not have a lot of time to find boats for people, so please try to get boats filled on your own.

Scot Hogland
608-576-6083

Sloooooow.....No Wake


As you look ahead to warm weather fishing, please keep in mind that in addition to state boating safety rules, Dane County has a slow-no-wake zone within 200 feet from the shoreline of Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa. Slow-no-wake means the minimum speed at which a motorized watercraft is able to move and maintain adequate steering control. There is an exception to this requirement on Lake Monona from Law Park to a point 1,000 feet due north of the intersection of John Nolen Drive and Lakeside Street. Beware of water skiers practicing and performing in this area.

There are a couple other exceptions to the no-wake requirement. For example, it doesn't apply to law enforcement watercraft, or official boats responding to an emergency. It also doesn't apply to boats accompanying a rowing shell at speeds required to be able to respond to emergencies involving the rowing shell.

In addition, the entire surface of Lake Mendota is a slow-no-wake zone from sunset to midnight on the date when the Rhythm and Booms fireworks display is held at Warner Park in the City of Madison.

To report violations of boating rules, contact (608) 255-2345 (Dane County Sheriff's dispatch) or 800-TIP-WDNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

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Notes from the Prez...

This newsletter will be packed with information. I'm hoping that most of it will make you a better fisherman/woman. The boat launches will be crowded Saturday on the Madison Lakes if the weather is good. As much as I like the winter, the warmer weather stimulates a lot of fish movement and I will spend a lot of time on the water this summer. I would like to be out a lot right now, but the work thing gets in the way.

My big emphasis this time around is with out Kids Fishing Day (June 2). I keep mentioning this because we need to focus as a club on accomplishing the goals we set forth a few months ago. Paul Maunich, Jim Zegers, Ken Worden and Rick Strayer from Wal-Mart are all chipping in with me to make this a great event. We need people there at 7:00am to get the bulk of the work done. Hopefully you will support our club's goal and show up to help. It is really a good time and worth it when you see the looks on those kids' faces.

Also, keep in mind the our June meeting along with the July meeting, Fishing Has No Boundaries and the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo. Have fun fishing this summer and enjoy the great outdoors.

Duffy Kopf
YFC Prez

Yahara Lakes Association Annual Conference

You are invited to join us on May 18, 2007, for the Yahara Lakes Association first annual lakes conference: The Future of the Yahara Lakes: Realizing the Vision. The conference is FREE and open to the public. Registration is now open. Please visit <http://www.yaharalakes.org/events.htm> and follow the links to register.

This conference will bring together a number of lake and environmental experts to discuss the past, present and future state of the Yahara Lakes, with the specific focus on what we can do now to protect and improve these precious resources.

David Mollenhoff will provide the keynote address and share his motivating insight on how the lakes are intricately woven into the fabric of Madison life, forming a historical relationship between water and the people of Dane County. Other presentations will be made by UW/DNR Limnologist Dick Lathrop and UW-Madison Engineering Professor Ken Potter. The program will also include a panel discussion with representatives from the State, Dane County, City of Madison and local agriculture. WISC TV's Editorial Director Neil Heinen will be moderating the day's events.

WHAT: The Future of the Yahara Lakes: Realizing the Vision
WHEN: May 18, 2007 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: American Family Insurance Headquarters, Madison, Wis.
For more information, please visit: <http://www.yaharalakes.org/>

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT REGISTRATION: Registration is required and space is limited. Enrollment confirmation will be emailed to you. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend the conference, PLEASE contact us as soon as possible so that we may fill your place with someone from the waiting list. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact: Alison Coulson acoulson@wisc.edu 608.263.9289

The conference is presented by the Yahara Lakes Association in partnership with the University of Wisconsin's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and is sponsored in part by American Family Insurance.

Thank You Wal-Mart

In addition to the \$1000 check received in January, the YFC just received another \$400 check in helping to support our Kids fishing days. Thank you Wal-Mart for your continued support of the Yahara Fishing Club.


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Mercury Emission Hearings

After a few years of preparatory table setting for controlling power plant mercury emissions, the WDNR is now required under their 2002 Mercury Rule (NR 446) to "harmonize" with the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR). To see if they are following the desires of the public, including the fishing community, the proposed rule will be put out for public hearing and comment. *Now is your chance to influence where the WDNR will set the standard for controlling the largest source of mercury contamination we have in Wisconsin.*

In addition to accepting written testimony until June 11, 2007, WDNR is scheduling five hearings around the state for giving oral testimony on the issue or for you to indicate which proposal you favor most. Hearings will be held starting at 1:30 PM at the following (since there is no end time, make sure you get there early. NRB members will likely be at the Eau Claire hearing since the NRB meeting takes place in Menominee on 5/22 & 23):

Location	Date	Location
Green Bay	May 15, 2007	Green Bay State Office Building, Room 152-A, 200 N. Jefferson St
Stevens Point	May 17, 2007	Portage County Annex Building, Conference Room 2, 1462 Strongs Avenue
Eau Claire	May 22, 2007	DNR Office Building, Front Conference Room, 1300 W. Clairemont Ave
Madison	May 23, 2007	Department of Public Instruction's room in GEF III, Room 041 125 S. Webster St
Milwaukee	May 24, 2007	DNR Southeast Regional Headquarters, Room 141, 2300 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

Four options will be given to gauge public support for each:

1. The standard requested through a citizen petition signed by many fishing groups and health groups. A 90% reduction by 2012 in line with neighboring states including over 20 states that have more stringent requirements such as Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois – our neighbors in the Upper Midwest.
2. The EPA CAMR.
3. The EPA CAMR sunset trading after 2015.
4. The EPA CAMR without trading and an additional reduction level to 90% by 2020.


May 8th Meeting

Speaker: Tim Hamilton

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Family Fishing Day

The Yahara Fishing Club Charity has donated \$250 in support of the Family Fishing Day event at Lake Marion in Mazomanie, on Saturday, May 12 from 10:00-3:00. The event is being hosted by area anglers Pete Jopke and Terry Frey. The first 50 kids will receive their own Okuma rod and reel, with pre-registration requested at either the Mazo Hardware Hank or Mazo Liquor & Bait. Kids and parents will also learn about lake and stream ecology, Q&A with a WDNR warden, learn about fly tying and casting, spincasting, knot tying, water safety, face painting and have a chance to talk with the hosts of the Outdoor Horizons radio show, Gary Engberg, Wally Banfi, Toni Puccio and James Myszkewicz. For more information or if you would like to help out at this event, contact Pete Joke at 608-795-4780 or email jorges@chorus.net



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The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting

Report by Stan Nichols

As one of your delegates to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF), I attended the annual meeting, April 13-15 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is a coalition of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other conservation groups in the state. Their primary purposes are education and legislation. Their key accomplishments this past year are many, too many to detail in this article. If you are interested I can provide a summary of key accomplishments or you can check out their website at www.wiwf.org.

Much of the work of WWF is accomplished in committees. There are, for instance, committees for education, endangered species, the environment, hunter education, waterfowl, wetlands, wildlife, scholarship, inland fisheries and Great Lakes fisheries. Much of the committee work, even those not directly titled fisheries, impacts the fish resource in the state. We know wetlands are important for fish spawning and water quality. Manure runoff rules are important for preventing fish kills. Mapping springs in the state is important to protect the cold-water fish resource. Preventing invasive species and water diversion from the Great Lakes is needed to protect trout and salmon. The Stewardship Fund provides public access to many fisheries resources. These are some of the efforts taken up by the WWF, but aren't

found in the fisheries committees.

Legislative efforts for the coming year focus on the Great Lakes Compact, ballast water treatment, climate change, the Stewardship Fund renewal, groundwater-spring protection, and the Natural Resources Board appointing the DNR Director. The Great Lakes Compact addresses the diversion of water out of the Great Lakes. Treating ballast water in ships before it is released prevents further exotic species invasion into the Great Lakes. The Stewardship Fund initiative wants to guarantee more public access for hunting on lands purchased with Stewardship money and wants more money to manage purchased lands. Stronger groundwater protection rules are needed to prevent springs from drying up when high capacity wells are placed nearby. Conservationists have been working a long time to get the DNR Director appointed by the DNR Board, out of the political hands of the Governor. Climate change is a large issue that we need to start the reversal process now.

For YFC, I think the legislative efforts of the WWF are its most important work. The coalition gives small organizations like YFC a political voice on larger issues. When I went to my first annual meeting of WWF, two years ago, they were celebrating reaching a goal of 100 member organizations, now they have 155. That is enough to be heard on larger political issues.

The "breakout" of most interest to YFC was the inland fisheries session. It focused on tournament fishing rules. As George Meyer reported to YFC last fall, the initial efforts by DNR to establish tournament-fishing rules failed. DNR is now working on new rules and in the meantime they gathered more information. Mike Staggs, head of DNR Fisheries, reported on research and survey results. Their research focused on the economic, biological, and sociological impacts of bass tournaments by studying seven bass tournaments and surveying anglers and lake groups. They found that bass tournaments have a significant economic impact. The tournaments they studied had between 50 and 211 boats entered and had an economic impact between \$65,000 and \$1,450,000. That bass mortality, primarily post-release mortality, varied with water temperature. Water temperatures over 80 degrees caused the highest mortality. That a relative large number of anglers (about 17%) participate in tournaments, that tournament anglers shouldn't be treated any differently in regard to fishing regulations than other anglers, and that tournaments generally don't interfere with lake use any more than other lake activities like water skiing or jet ski use. If you are interested in further details you can contact Mike Staggs for a copy of the report (Evaluation



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WWF, Continued

of the Bass Fishing Tournament Pilot Program, Bureau of Fisheries Management Administrative Report 61) or look for it on the DNR Web Site.

A couple of other notes brought up in the inland fisheries session were the impact of VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia), a disease that is killing large numbers of fish in the eastern Great Lakes. This is the disease that is causing problems for the "Kids Fishing Day" by not allowing transfer of fish from one water body to another without inspection. Rearing ponds in Michigan are shut down because of the disease and the interstate commerce of baitfish is prohibited without inspection. Also in Wisconsin no boat leaves a Great Lakes or Mississippi River drainage boat landing (up to the first dam as I understand it) without draining all water from the boat. I don't know what this means for stocking fish in the state from state hatcheries or intrastate selling of bait fish? A second note was that male smallmouth bass on the east coast were found carrying eggs. The suspected problem is estrogen found in wastewater.

WWFrunstheMacKenzieEnvironmental Center at Poynette. A couple of dates you may want to put on you calendar are:

WWF Club Day, June 23, 2007 members of affiliate clubs are invited to tour the grounds and facilities, from 9 am to 2 pm, lunch is provided

Outdoor Skills Day, July 14, 2007 rotate thru different activities such as archery, air gun, nature hikes, fishing, outdoor cooking and more, 9am-2pm. Open to all, concession available for lunch.

Fishing Has No Boundries

Fishing Has No Boundaries needs volunteers to help with the annual event held at Governor Nelson State Park on Lake Mendota. This year it will be held July 14th and 15th. Boats, especially Pontoon boats that can accommodate wheel chairs, fishing guides, and fishing assistance are needed. To pitch in call Mark Kontney at 608-221-1751 for more information.



June 12, Meeting on the Water & Outing

Our first "Meeting on the Water", will be held on June 12th at Lake Waubesa. I will be leading an outing on Waubesa with the emphasis on tactics and techniques for bass in the Madison Chain. I want this to be a "hands-on" demonstration of lure rigging(Texas, Carolina, jigs etc) and fishing techniques (flipping & pitching etc). I will be launching from Babcock Park around noon, and we will meet there at 12:30, for those fishing early.

We will go over the equipment and tackle used, then hit some spots to try things out. For those that are just attending the meeting later in the day, I will go over things again, and we can discuss what had worked in the afternoon. Sign up at the May meeting or either e-mail me at esox4me@hotmail.com or call 455-2067. *Eric Olson*

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2007 Yahara Fishing Club Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
May 8	May YFC Meeting Tim Hamilton - Swimbaits	Lakeside VFW Hall	Duffy Kopf (849-7245)
May 10	Cory Steil - Local Smallmouth	D&S Bait	Gene Dellinger (241-4225)
May 12	Family Fishing Day (See Article this issue - Page 4.)	Lake Marion(Mazomanie)	Pete Joke (795-4780)
May 17	Tony Puccio - Walleys	D&S Bait	Gene Dellinger (241-4225)
May 18	Yahara Lakes Assoc. Conf.	American Family Insurance HQ	Alison Coulson (263-9289)
May 18-19	Wisconsin Outdoor Expo	Beaver Dam (Fairgrounds)	Mark Baldock (920-387-7868)
May 19-20	Fishing Green Bay (See Article this issue - Page 3.)	Green Bay	Scot Hogland (576-6083)
May 24	Rick Krueger - A Diver's View	D&S Bait	Gene Dellinger (241-4225)
May 31	Gene Dellinger - Panfish	D&S Bait	Gene Dellinger (241-4225)
June 2	Kids Fishing Day (Starts 7 AM)	Aliant Energy Center	Duffy Kopf (849-7245)
June 12	June YFC Meeting (See Article this issue - Page 6.)	Lake Waubesa	Eric Olson, Don Gostomski
July 10	July YFC Meeting First call for Board Nominations	Lakeside VFW Hall	Duffy Kopf (849-7245)
July 14-15	Fishing has no boundaries (See Article this issue - Page 6.)	Lake Mendota	Marv Kontney (221-1751)
August 14	August YFC Meeting	Lakeside VFW Hall	Duffy Kopf (849-7245)
Sept. 11	Sept YFC Meeting	Lakeside VFW Hall	Duffy Kopf (849-7245)

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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Annual Dues:

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Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Lakeside VFW Hall, John Nolan Dr, & Lakeside St. in Madison, WI

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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, May 8th**, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Dr. & Lakeside St.).
The Board of Directors meet at 6:15 pm, the **General Membership meeting starts at 7:30pm.**

Speaker: Tim Hamilton

May Events **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

May 8th, 2007 Monthly meeting @ 7:30 pm

Speaker: Tim Hamilton---Swimbait

May 19 - 20, 2007, Outing with Scott Hogland. Green Bay - Slow Trolling

June Events

June 2nd, 2007 Kids Fishing Day, Aliant Energy Center

June 12th, 2007 Monthly meeting: On the Water, Lake Waubesa

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

President - Larry Kopf.....849-7245
Vice President - Jeff Western831-1092
Treasurer - Rick Lane.....873-5228
Secretary - Jim Zegers/Paul Marunich

Director - Bonnie Miller.....824-9792
Director - Paul Marunich.....219-4449
Director - Eric Uram.....233-9022
Director - Ken Worden.....836-8904

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



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