



# November 2007

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## North of the Border Hints

Tas Kaliska provides hints for catching walleyes and northern pike in Canada. She has 13 years experience as a Canadian fishing guide and spends about 800 hours a year guiding on Wawang Lake, Ontario. The information was valuable in two respects. The most obvious is if you are going to Ontario fishing. The second is that walleyes are walleyes and northern pike are northern pike, so how much of what she said is applicable to local or northern Wisconsin lakes?

One point she made was finding cold-water springs or other cold-water pockets when fishing for northerns in hot weather. Northerns are a cool water fish, so when temperatures climb they seek cool water if they can find adequate forage. She uses an Aqua-view camera with a thermometer to find cooler water and uses live bait. For our area you can many times find spring locations in the winter. Springs with good water flow will stay ice free. If you have seen the open areas on the south end of Lake Waubesa in the winter it is because of spring flow. In southern Wisconsin spring water is about 50 degrees so it's warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. I've also seen open spring areas in Lake Onalaska and some anglers fish them off the ice with long cane poles in the winter. In Wisconsin the best trout streams will stay ice-free in the winter due to spring flow.

Depending on the source, inlet streams can be an area of cool water in the summer and warmer water in early or late in the season that is a fish attractant. Give them a try.



The thermocline is another cool water area that Tas mentioned. In deep lakes, the water separates into two layers that don't mix in the summer - a warm upper layer and a colder bottom layer. The problem with the bottom layer is that oxygen becomes depleted so it isn't very hospitable to fish. The thermocline is the transition area between the upper and lower layers. It is cooler than the upper layer and has more oxygen than the lower layer so it is an area where cool water fish are comfortable in during the summer. If my recollection is correct, I think the thermocline in Lake Mendota is at about 30 feet in the summer. Rick Krueger usually has a post on the D&S website where the thermocline

is from his diving expeditions. Since Lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa are shallow I suspect a thermocline doesn't form or is only temporary during the summer.

I had a theory that trolling the 30-foot depth or somewhat above, where the thermocline hits the bottom would be a good place for summer northerns in Lake Mendota but my experience hasn't born that out, even when going with an ace spoon-plugger like Clay Russell.

Tas suggests using surface lures in cold pockets on inlet streams and is a big proponent of using surface lures early in the season. At the season opener in Ontario (about the third week of May) she will cast frog or mouse imitations right up on bog edges and jerk them into the water for fish. When fishing the Chippewa River two summers ago I caught a smallmouth bass with a mouse in it so give it a try.

Another time Tas suggested using surface lures is when walleyes are feeding on the mayfly hatch. I've been in Northern Wisconsin when the mayflies were hatching and seen walleyes come and take them off the top of the water just like a trout.

*Continued Page 2.*

*Notes by Stan Nichols*

Tas, continued

Unfortunately I never had fly fishing gear along, but I thought it would be a dynamite technique if I were properly prepared.

Often we were brought up to believe that the clear, deep, cool water lakes were walleye havens. A point Tas mentioned that I've seen in Canada is that some of the best walleye lakes are shallow, dark water, with a soft bottom. In clear lakes walleyes will often be right on the bottom during bright conditions but come off the bottom during reduced light.

A hint for fishing cold fronts; fish yesterdays wind. Fish can concentrate on windward shores, but if the wind switches, the fish aren't likely to swim all the way across the lake in a day.

For gear she is a proponent of heavy-duty musky type gear for "hunting" trophy northerns. She is impressed with titanium leaders for strength and durability. If you are using spinning gear she prefers reels with the drag adjustment on the rear so they can be adjusted with a fish on. For lures she mentioned many that most of us are familiar with. She thinks size and shape of the lure are more important than color, but does prefer natural colors for clear water lakes and brighter or hotter colors for dark water lakes.

For walleyes she uses light tackle and regular mono or no stretch line in six to eight pound test- no leader and no red mono. Also tie good knots, a palomar for no stretch and a good barrel knot for mono. In Tas's experience the number one reason for losing fish is poor knots.

For trolling she says to get a copy of the "Precision Trolling" book to know where your lure is going. She suggests trolling at about 2.5 M.P.H. for northerns and 1.5 M.P.H. for walleye. She also had some hints for fishing the moon phases but for me that will take some more study.

If you want to contact Tas or are interested in the Wawang Lake Resort, she can be reached at General Delivery, Graham, Ontario, POT 1 NO, or 800-268-0849.



Notes from the Prez

I got some chores done early this weekend. The weather was cool, but the sun was out and there wasn't any wind. Now, do I sit down and write my column or do I go out and see if I can find some big northern on Mendota? You already know which one I chose. It is very rare to find a day like this in late October. Usually low 40's and windy on the weekend. I got home at about 4 in the afternoon and cut the grass.

I would like to thank Larry Mothershead for leading a great outing on Mendota. I had new club member Jesse Swing in my boat and he caught 3 beautiful northern. The smallest was 34" and the largest was a 40" fish. What a great day for Jesse and we all need to thank Larry for leading the outing.

Jesse asked me if he could

Prez, continued

enter the fishing contest as we were out in the boat. I told him he needs to do that before catching the fish. That reminds me, our fishing contest ends on November 30 and you need to re-up for the next year so you don't catch some huge fish and you forgot to enter.

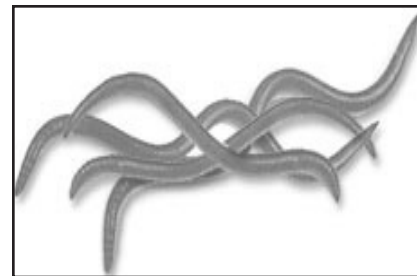
The BOD will be setting goals for the upcoming year. If you have ideas, please let us know before the next meeting. We will also be setting up committees and assigning duties to all board members.

Plan ahead and start to think about working the Fishing Expo and helping with the Kids Ice Fishing Day in January. The date for this even will be in the next newsletter. We need a lot of help and hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate this year.

Tim Eisele brought in some rods and reels for our auction. They were donated by Mrs. Robert Dewa in memory of her husband who loved fishing and recently died. I'm guessing 50's vintage. Thanks Mrs. Dewa!

Time to bring this to a close. Let's see what the new Board comes up with for the year.

Fishing Season Never Closes,  
Duffy Kopf - Prez



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## Warner Park Restoration

Jack Hurst has been working with the City of Madison and the DNR to stem run-off from parking lot and streets into Lake Mendota near the Warner park shelter. This run-off carries a lot of sand and silt, making the lagoons shallower every year. As a result, carp are taking over the lagoons. Now, near Forrester drive, the City has built a catch basin.

At the other end of the lagoon there is a sand and debris filled channel that flows under railroad tracks, preventing fish from migrating upstream. Jack is working to dredge this channel, and possibly to insert a removable wire mesh fence to discourage carp spawning.

Last year 66,000 pounds of sand were dredged out. Most of this results from street runoff.



Warner Lagoon, March 20, 2007, close to the shelter, from the parking lot.



Catch Basin at Forrester Drive, installed Feb. 2007.




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YFC October Outing - See what you missed!



*Pictures of the outing on Lake Mendota on Saturday, October 13th, lead by Larry Mothershead. Three good fish were caught, including a 40 incher by Jesse Swing. The old fart is Jim Kloth. (Caption provided by the Prez.)*

Gary Engberg Reported on October 25th



*Hi All, the Madison lakes have not turned over yet, the water temp was 58 degrees today. But, while guiding on Lake Monona I caught this nice 41" true muskie today on a Bait Rigs Quick Set rig and sucker. The fish was released unharmed. Things should start turning soon and fishing will be great. Gary*

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## December Meeting: WDNR Fisheries

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the only agency in the country with a comprehensive waters program that unifies regulatory, environmental quality and resource management functions to provide for a fisheries management program that supports 161 different fish species.

The Bureau of Fisheries Management manages in-water activities and is responsible for maintaining, enhancing, and monitoring aquatic based resources such as aquatic ecosystems, sport and commercial fisheries, lakes, and wetlands. In addition, the bureau assesses the quality of surface water and the biological health of rivers, lakes, and wetlands. The bureau develops regulations and strategies to protect habitat for fish and other aquatic life, and coordinates the state fish hatchery operations.

### Wisconsin Stocks Superior Muskies

Yesterday, (October 29th) the Wisconsin DNR stocked 500 Leech Lake muskie fingerlings (12 to 15 inches) in Madison's Lake Monona. These fish are from this years hatch and came from the Minnesota Muskie Farm in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Another 500 muskies from the Wisconsin Muskie Hatchery in Spooner were also released in Lakes Wabesa and Lake Wingra from the Chippewa strain for a comparison of growth and which fish strain possesses better genetics. Wisconsin is constantly trying to upgrade their stockings and attempting to stock the best fish that are available. "This comparison process will take many years to track their growth over time and see if there are better genetics," according to DNR Fish Biologist Kurt Welke.

The Leech Lake muskies were all PIT ( passive integrated transponder) tagged before their release. DNR biologists are trying to find if there is a superior strain of muskies for raising and stocking in Wisconsin.

The Leech muskies are very expensive and cost about \$1.00 per inch or \$10.00 to \$15.00 per muskie. The cost was paid for by the generosity of the Madison Capital City Chapter of Muskies Inc., the Oregon Muskiebusters, and the Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies Inc. from Rockford, Illinois. These groups should be thanked for picking up the tab and trying to improve muskie fishing for all. The state of Wisconsin has faced budget cuts and the high cost of CWD has left little money for these projects.

The fish were trucked to Wisconsin today and held in pens in the lake to make sure they were well adjusted to the local water before their release. I saw no "floaters" and they looked chunky and healthy before the release.

Thanks to all the Muskie Inc. Chapters that made it possible and of the Wisconsin DNR (Scott S., Kurt, Scott H., Mark, and Dick) for doing all the work and providing expert personel. The future for muskies in Wisconsin looks bright!

Gary Engberg



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The November speaker: Wally from the Wilderness Fish and Game in Sauk City

What's new in products for 2008, planning for the ice fishing season, and gift ideas for the angler on your list....

10-18-2007

HELLO ERIC!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SPEAKING AT THE YAHARA FISHING CLUB NOV 13TH, 2007 MY TOPIC IS CALLED...

"WHAT'S NEW IN THE FISHING WORLD!"

I WILL BE BRINGING IN ABOUT 20-ITEMS THAT I CAN EXPLAIN TO THE CROWD. I WILL NOT NEED ANY AUDIO-VISUAL ITEMS BECAUSE I AM BRINGING IN THE ACTUAL ITEMS.

EXAMPLES OF ITEMS...

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SOME INFO ABOUT ME...

- \* I'M MARRIED TO MY WIFE KATE WHO IS A AVID ANGLER ALSO. WE LIVE IN PRAIRIE DU SAC, WI. WITH OUR 2-LABS ROCKY & JESSIE.
- \* I WORK FULL TIME FOR THE WILDERNESS FISH & GAME STORE IN SAUK CITY, WI. I HAVE BEEN IN THE FISHING TACKLE INDUSTRY FOR 31-YEARS.
- \* I AM A PART-TIME FISHING GUIDE AND GUIDE 1 TO 2 DAYS PER WEEK ON THE MADISON CHAIN, LAKE WISCONSIN, & THE LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER AND OTHER AREA WATERS. I HAVE BEEN A LICENSED GUIDE FOR 20 YEARS & COUNTING.
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- \* I AM A PURE FISHING "AMBASSADOR" AND WORK CLOSELY WITH FENWICK, ABU-GARCIA, AND BERKLEY PRODUCTS.
- \* I AM A MEMBER OF THE RANGER BOATS/MERCUARY PROSTAFF

THANK YOU!

Wally

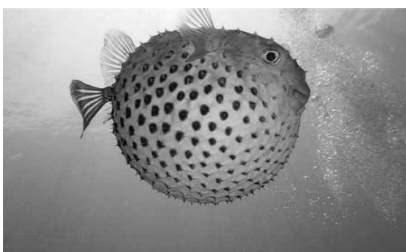


Notice to Members:

Yahara Fishing Club membership renewals for 2008 are needed and can be made using the form at page 7 off the newsletter or at the next meeting.

Thanks,

Rick Lane



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## Wisconsin Outdoor Report as of November 1, 2007

New emergency rules to prevent the spread of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia, or VHS, take effect statewide Nov. 2. The rules require boaters and anglers to drain their boats and make sure the fish they take away are dead, including bait minnows and suckers, before they leave any Wisconsin water body. It also prohibits people from bringing boats and boating and fishing equipment and containers to Wisconsin for use on water bodies unless all the water has been drained from them first.

Variable weather conditions made for some erratic fishing success on lakes in the Northwoods in the last week. Water temperatures continue to hold in the low 50s to upper 40. Musky have once again been providing the most consistent action. Nearly all of the anglers have been dragging large suckers around, but many anglers continue to cast artificials. A few musky have been caught and most have been in the 34 to 40-inch size. Walleye fishing has been inconsistent. Cloudy days have produced some catches all day long, but on sunny days, look for the fish to bite in the hour right before dark. Inland lake bass fishing can basically done for the open-water season. Fishing has also been excellent for musky and good for walleye on some southern waters. Few reports have come in regarding panfish action, though a few crappie were still being caught. Walleye activity has been increasing on the lower Wisconsin River and numerous anglers are reporting good catches of walleyes.

Fishing on Green Bay was again very good over the past week. Water temps continue to drop into the lower 50s triggering shad and whitefish to move into shallows bringing those large predatory musky and walleye with them. Musky anglers continue to have great luck on the Fox River. Limits of yellow perch were being still being caught along the west and east shores. Many perch have begun to gain weight with their bellies starting to fill up with spawn yielding those jumbos everyone looks for.

## Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, October 9th**, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Rr. & Lakeside St.)  
The Board Of Directors meet at 6:15 pm, The **General Membership meeting starts at 7:30 pm.**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### November Events

November 13th Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, Lakeside VFW Hall  
Speaker: Wally Banfi. See page 6.

### December Events

December 11th Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, Lakeside VFW Hall  
Speaker: WDNR Fisheries will be presenting.

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

President - Larry Kopf.....849-7245  
Vice President - Jeff Western .....831-1092  
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 - Jim Zegers.....848-6299  
Director - Jayne Meyer.....662-9374  
Director - Rick Seeger.....849-3714  
Editor - Tom Raschke.....233-6765

Check out our web page at:  
[www.yaharafishingclub.org](http://www.yaharafishingclub.org)



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