



November
2009

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

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

What Does Kurt Do?

Notes by Stan Nichols

Most of you know Kurt Welke, the DNR fish manager for Dane and Green Counties. But many of you ask what does Kurt really do? At the October meeting Kurt told us, at least what he was doing in 2009.

Kurt's activities are broken down into warm water fisheries activities, cold-water fisheries activities, land management and maintenance, and other stuff.

Warm water fisheries activities begin at ice out when population sampling begins on the Madison lakes. There is a rotation of lakes with one lake sampled every year, except the musky lakes (Monona and Waubesa) that are sampled for two years in a row. Lake Mendota was sampled in 2009. The main effort was to get population and size structure estimates for northern pike and walleyes. The last time Mendota was sampled was in 2002. Based on Kurt's estimates both northern pike and walleye populations declined since 2002 but Kurt's caution is to not put too much emphasis on the numbers. Population estimates are horribly unreliable, especially in a big lake like Mendota. A lot of success depends on the weather and if you guessed correctly in sampling net placement. He did mention they captured 432 catfish in one net in a single day.

Cold-water fish activities sample trout streams. This usually begins in early to mid-summer. Some streams are sampled every year and have been for many years. Other streams are sampled about once every five years. Again they are sampled for population and size structure of fish, mainly trout. Whole lengths of a stream are not sampled. The sampling distance is based on a multiplier of stream width. It sounded



like if you wanted to win the fishing contest for trout you should find the secret hole in Mt. Vernon Creek where they shocked four trout over 20 inches, with the largest being 26 inches

Why do all these activities estimating fish populations and size structures? They are used for developing and evaluating regulations, developing stocking quotas, and setting size and bag limits. In general they also indicate how good a job we are doing managing our natural resources and protecting the environment.

Many DNR owned and leased properties are designated as fish management area. Although they may be uplands adjacent to streams or lakes it is the fish managers responsibility to manage these areas. So this can mean development of access, vegetation control, and addition of habitat features. These areas have the same problems that other "wild" lands have with exotic species control. Kurt says he is an expert at using Garlon 4 for con-

Continued next page.

trolling buckthorn, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard. If you have any questions, give him a call. Most of these activities occur during the summer and into fall.

Kurt is involved with a number of other activities. There were fish cribs placed in Lake Kegonsa. Kurt dove on them a couple of times but didn't see a lot of activity around them. He is involved with the carp removal work on Lake Wingra. Removal of about half the carp biomass has done wonders for water clarity. He is involved with the musky project on Lake Monona where the growth of Leech Lake strain muskies are being compared to growth of Wisconsin strain muskies. He is involved with the renovation work on the Warner Park Lagoons. A big problem is what to do about the six storm water outfalls that enter the lagoon. An interesting side note to the Warner Park story is there is an outfall ditch that will be developed into a carp trap. Last spring flowing water in the ditch attracted carp. The end was closed off and the Hmong community was notified to come and get all the carp they wanted. With some improvements, this could work even better. Kurt is also involved with the renovation and restocking of Stewart Lake.

Besides all these activities Kurt also has review of regulation activities regarding Chapter 30 permits that involve development on or near water bodies and for tournament fishing permits.

Kurt also provided some informational items. One is for a proposed statewide 40-inch length limit for muskies. This would simplify regulations, protect female muskies longer, and better meet anglers desires. Another proposed regulation would change the limit



from five, 15-inch walleyes in southern Wisconsin to three, 18-inch walleyes. Some fish managers think there will be more walleye yield and better natural reproduction. Also, 2010 will be the year of the trout where there will be an evaluation of trout regulations. All these depend on what anglers want. Let it be known what your desires are.

If you have questions or comments give Kurt a call. He tries to be responsive to telephone inquiries. It does note, however, that many questions can be answered on the DNR WEB page. You might want to try looking for answers there before you call.

Full Color Copies (608) 257-8900




PRINTING & COPYING, LLC

131 West Wilson Street, #P300 Madison, WI 53703

One and Two-Color Printing
Copying up to 36" x 48"
Large Format Posters

Posters, Banners, Wide Format for Trade Shows, displays, parties, advertisements, etc.



V.F.W. Post 1318
133 Lakeside St.
Madison 53715
608-255-5955

LUND
BOATS
AND
PHARO
marine
YOUR FISHING BOAT HEADQUARTERS
608-849-5950

Notes From The Prez

Well, this is my last column. I'm hoping that this has been valuable to you as a member of the club and I had fun putting them together.

At the end of the October meeting I was feeling pretty good about the transition to the new Board of Directors. I thank all the past and present members along with the new Board members who care enough about our club to volunteer their time, talent and effort. Everyone should thank Charlie Grimm, Tom Klein, Paul Nichols and Karlette Schoen for making this commitment.

A reminder that if you want to nominate anyone for the Pete Froland Award – time is running out. The Board needs to make a decision on this at the December meeting. A short, written rationale for the person you nominate is required. The Award will be given out at the January meeting.

I had a good time at our pike outing on Mendota in October. Not much success. I think we were on the water right before turnover. Water temp. that morning was 52 degrees and turnover usually starts at about 50 degrees. A big Thank You goes out to Larry Mothershead for leading the outing.

Look out! The Fishing Contest ends November 30. Get those last minute entries in to Rick Lane.

I am putting together a DVD featuring the Yahara Fishing Club to show at the Madison Fishing Expo. It is their 25th Anniversary in February and the Board thought this would be a good way to recognize our relationship with them. If you have any photographs (any YFC activity or outing), old new clippings etc., please let me know so that I can possibly include them in the production. I already have a bunch of scanned slides from the 70's from Stan Nichols and Jack Hurst is coming over to my house on Monday to see if he can ID the people in the pictures. I'm guessing Jack will be bringing a bunch of "stuff" with him to help me out. If you have anything (it doesn't have to be "old"), please get it to me.

Please keep sending Tom Raschke pictures for the newsletter and website. We need to maintain quality in both. Thanks for doing such a great job with those Tom

Your dues come due at the December meeting. If you pay on time it makes everything run smoother and we need to keep Brad Czebotar (treasurer) happy. Brad has done a wonderful job over the last few years – thanks.

Our November speaker is going to be interesting. Some of the projects Middleton has been involved with have many implications that affect the quality of fishing in Lake Mendota. I am anxious to find out what they have "on tap".

Pay attention to the details of our November Outing at Tenney Park led by Charlie Grimm. We had a very good time there last year despite the weather and we caught fish. This outing reminded me of fishing with my boyhood friends when I was about 12 years old. Beans and weenies sure sound good.

What does the future hold for the Yahara Fishing Club? I think we have built up a lot of momentum over the last three years. It is my hope that this continues. I also know that a person has to know when to quit (I am not going to pull a "Favre"). I coached football for 24 years and retired from that 12 years ago. The Waunakee Warriors have really been on a roll since I quit.

It has been a great honor for me to be your President over the last three years. I learned a lot from a variety of people. I asked a lot of questions and received a lot of advice from many sources. Some I listened to, some I ignored. I'm sure not everyone agreed with every decision I made. It was never my intent to keep everyone happy all of the time. I took on the Presidency to move forward as a club. Thanks for having me.



Fishing Season Never Ends
Duffy Kopf - Prez

The only positive fishing report the editor could find.

WDNR - October 28th

Crawford County - The Mississippi River rose steadily all week. It rained for almost two straight days last week. Last week, before the rain the river was holding around the 7.6 foot. The river is at 8.3 feet and on the rise as of Oct. 26. The river's forecast is for an 8.7 foot crest later this week. Water clarity continues to be very good but floating weeds are continuing to come down the river causing some difficulties for anglers and congestion at some boat ramps. The Wisconsin River also rose this week also but not as rapidly as the Kickapoo River. The Kickapoo River crested late last week near the action stage level of 10 feet. The Kickapoo River is dropping rapidly. Water temperatures are starting to drop in area waterways. Bluegill activity was very spotty this week because of the increasing water and floating weeds. Some nice sized gills were being caught in back water sloughs that have little to no flow. Fishing at Cold Spring was spotty this week. There were some days of decent bluegill and crappie action. Perch fishing was slow again this week. Walleye and sauger action was decent, although a lot of little fish were being caught. Anglers using live bait have switched over to minnows. A few days last week the sauger really bit well at the Lynxville dam, below Deer Island (upstream from the Lynxville boat landing), and outside Prairie du Chien on the East Channel. Smallmouth and largemouth bass action was fair. Smallmouth activity on local wing dams and rocky shore lines has been good. Largemouth bass can be found in a variety of habitats to include the "slop", weed edges, wing dams, and in the timber. Plastics, spinner baits, and crank baits have worked well.

November 10th Club Meeting Speaker

Penny Klein of Middleton Land will speak at the Nov 10th meeting She will update us on the latest Middleton is doing for Lake and Fish habitat, including streambank erosion, how to fix it and what the City of Middleton is doing and/or planning for future water improvements.

Paul Marunich



Mendota Boat Works
5380 Farmco Dr.
Madison, WI 53704
www.mendotaboatworks.com

ph: 608 - 245 - 9041
fax: 608 - 249 - 9396

Michael Vierthaler
Owner

Quality fiberglass, gel coat repairs,
Yacht Chartering and Bottom Painting



Dorn Hardware and Sporting Goods
"The fishing & Hunting Specialists"

Professional Help - **ELECTRONICS**
Inland and Lake Michigan
Tackle and Accessories
 Guns Ammunition Archery

Competitive Prices at
4 Locations
Northgate Oregon
Monona
Brookwood



Pharo Marine Inc
Hwy 113 and River Road in Waunakee
849-5950



Pontoons Deckboats
Mercury Mariner Force
Motorist OMC

"We excel in service"

MAZANET MARINA
"OUR 40th YEAR ON LAKE MENDOTA"
SALES & SERVICE



- * WINTER STORAGE
- * 300 WET & DRY SLIPS
- * GAS DOCK - BEER & ICE
- * BOAT RENTAL * LIVE BAIT

WWW.MAZANETMARINA.COM
249-9316
5320 BLUE BILL PARK DR

October Pike Outing



Mike Hutchen (above) caught this fish at the Yahara Club outing on Saturday October 17th. Was this the only Pike caught? Good job Mike!

Your fishing picture could go here.

I need more pictures and fishing stories!

Editor

Terry Balding & Associates
Professional Money Management
Financial Planning

515 W. Main Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
(608) 837-9099
1-800-727-3039
FAX (608) 825-6468
Email: tbalding@hirep.net
www.plannr.com



"Your Partner in Success"
Terry Balding CFP

Securities offered through Harbour Investments, Inc., One Odana Court, Madison, WI 53719
(608) 274-7744 • Member NASD/SIPC



Live Bait
Tackle
Guide Service
Fishing Info

Archery Supplies
Bow's & Arrows
Ice Shack Rentals

**D & S Bait,
Tackle & Archery, LLC**

Gene & Sandy Dellinger
1411 Northport Drive
Madison, WI 53704

Store: 608-241-4225
Fishing Hotline: 608-244-3474
BIG-FISH

www.dsbait.com

Tune Into
"Outdoor Horizons"
Saturdays at 8:00 AM
Radio WTDY 1670 AM



Hosts Gary Engberg,
Tony Puccio, Wally Banfi

Bringing you the best in Fishing, hunting and the outdoors.

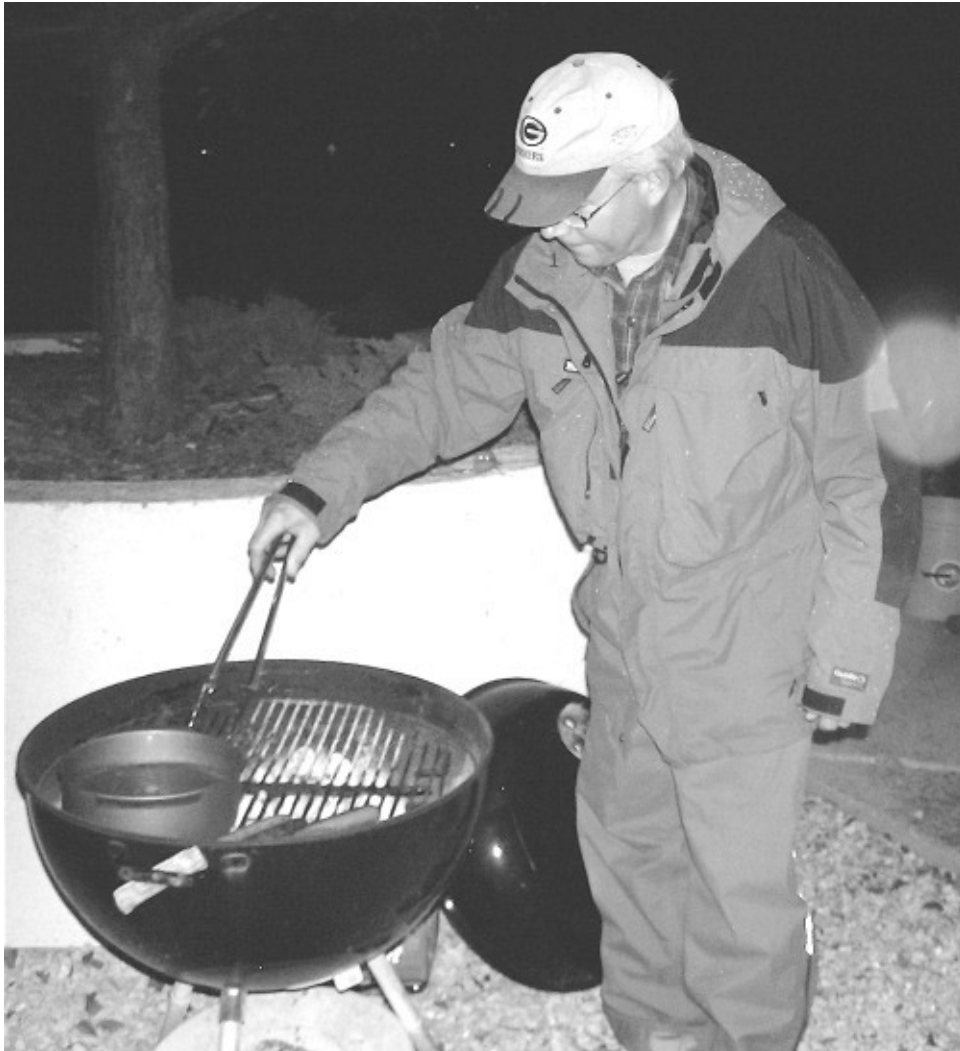
November Outing - Take Two.

Late Fall Walleyes.....Let's Try Again

Last November's outing on the Tenney Park breakwall was a bit rainy but it was fun and some fish were caught and the grilled brats and hot dogs helped too. Let's try again on Thursday November 12 starting at around 5:30 to 6pm. I'll bring the grill and some hot dogs and fixins'. Jim Pankratz says he'll add some brats. If you have anything you'd like to add to the mix please do.

I like to fish a minnow on a lighted bobber so i'm fishing even when i'm eating but a medium spinning outfit with 8-10 lb line and a few minnow plugs is all you really need. I like the 14A long Bomber, Thundersticks, or Rapala Husky Jerk. Perch or silver black is basic but you never know! Let's hope for better weather than last year and a few more fish. November can be excellent for big fish.....they come in shallow after dark for business!

Charlie Grimm



Charlie grilling last year.

FOR SALE

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.

The selling price is Duffy’s Pro Staff price and he will not be making money on these. The drills will be used for promotional purposes and will be available at the end of the season (near the end of Feb.) A non-refundable \$75.00 down payment is required with the balance due upon delivery. If you have any questions ask Duffy: 849-7245 or ljkopf@tds.net.

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 3271
Madison, WI 53704

Annual Dues:

Individual.....\$25
Family.....\$35
Youth Member.....Free
(with paid membership)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip ____

Email _____ @ _____

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*

OFFICES AND BOAT SLIPS




INTERLAKE BOATYARD

Located Between Lakes Monona and Waubesa

Call George Kinsler
223-1961

**Ryan and
Joyce-Ryan
Funeral Homes**

Serving Families of all Faiths Since 1938
"Colonel" Ryan - Roman Ryan - P.M. O'Rourke
2818 N. Sherman Madison 249-8257 118 N. Franklin Verona 845-0623 5701 Odana Rd. Madison 274-1000



Lake-Link.com

BEYOND THE WATER

Interactive fishing reports, lake database, topographic maps
tons of angling and outdoor information and much, much more

Visit www.lake-link.com today!

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, November 10th**, 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.**

Speaker: Penny Klein of Middleton

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November Events

November 10th - November Monthly Meeting at the VFW hall. Penny Klein of Middleton Land will update us on the latest Middleton is doing for Lake and Fish habitat.

November 12th - November Outing at Tenney Park
Charlie Grimm is the coordinator. See Page 6.

December Events

December 8th YFC December Monthly Meeting at the VFW hall.

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

President - Larry "Duffy" Kopf..849-7245
Vice President - Paul Marunich...219-4449
Secretary - Rick Seeger.....849-3714
Treasurer - Brad Czebotar838-9458

Director - Tom Wilke834-9554
Director - Jeff Wydeven.....848-4542
Director - Jim Pankratz.....288-9789
Director - Clay Russell.....838-0088

Director - Jesse Swing219-851-4347
Director - Roger Swenson..608-752-6825
Director - Jim Kloth608-635-0116

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



Yahara Fishing Club
P.O. Box 3271
Madison, WI 53704