



October  
2008

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## Brett Hulsey and 14 Million Dollars

*Notes by Stan Nichols*

There are two things that you need to know about cleaning up lakes: 1) water runs down hill, and 2) lakes are at the bottom of the hill. Therefore, lakes become the catch basin for all the things that wash off the surrounding landscape. Things come in a variety of sizes and shapes. It might be big stuff, medium sized stuff, small stuff, or chemicals dissolved in the water. All enter the lake and can cause problems.

Bret Hulsey, a Dane County Board Supervisor and Chair of the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission discussed a 14 million dollar proposal to keep stuff out of the Madison Lakes. Of this, nine million would be used to buy and restore wetlands and two million would be used to treat storm sewer outlets that empty into the lakes. Some of the remaining three million was for building a methane digester and some was going for planning and computer modeling of watershed problems.

There are at least 160 storm sewers that enter Lake Mendota and 100 that enter Lake Monona. There are probably more because, with a variety of jurisdictions along the lakeshore, no one really knows for sure. He didn't give a number for Lakes Wingra, Waubesa, or Kegonsa, but they are there. These

are direct conduits for runoff from streets, parking lots, roofs and a variety of other places. Down to the lakes come leaves, grass clippings, pet droppings, fertilizer, and salt to name a few things. Bret's proposal is to treat the 40 worst of these at approximately \$50,000 each to prevent the storm surge from entering the lakes. If you can capture and retain the first 15 minutes of storm water you can prevent about 90% of the phosphorus from entering the lakes. There are a variety of catch basin designs and Bret gave examples of a couple, but that level of planning is down the road.

Something Bret didn't mention is preventing the water from getting to the street. Here is the place for individual action. Individuals can build rain gardens, grassy swales, use rain barrels, and redirect downspouts to prevent water from getting to the street. A lot of this is "old" technology. People used to have rain barrels and cisterns to catch water they needed. Grassy swales used to be called ditches and were used before curb, gutters, and storm sewers became prevalent. Fertilizers weren't used as extensively on lawns, especially when you had to mow them with a hand, push mower. People used to have gravel driveways instead of concrete or asphalt. Although we continue to

gain population in Dane County, each individual is also having more impact on the lakes. By not piling leaves and grass clippings in the street, individuals can prevent oxygen consuming organic matter from reaching the lakes.

Madison is built on wetlands. Most of the "flatter" parks around the lakes like Olbrich, Law, Brittingham, and Winnequah are the result of dredge and fill operations or the use of wetlands as dumps (we call them landfills these days). There are also many residential and commercial sites like the East Washington Avenue, Park and Regent Street corridors, the South Beltline, the Dane County Coliseum, and the Lost City in the University Arboretum that are the result of dredge and fill operations. It is interesting to look at some of the old photos of Madison to see what the wetlands looked like. You can still find the old dredge holes in the Madison Lakes and the old dredge platform still exists on the end of Squaw Bay. These wetlands provided the functions of slowing down runoff and capturing nutrients that are vital for maintaining lake quality. These near-shore wetlands are lost and development precludes restoring them so we need to preserve the ones that remain and restore what we can in the watershed. These wetlands were also important fish spawning sites.

Important: See By-Law changes - page 4.

*Continued next page*

Dane County could become the Saudi Arabia of energy with methane production. Bret says there are 50,000 cows in the Lake Mendota Watershed. The proposal is to build a methane digester to handle the manure from all those cattle. Methane is a fuel and it is used on small scales at wastewater treatment plants and recovered from old landfills. I don't know how much methane the manure from 50,000 cows can generate but I'm sure it is more than would be generated from 50,000 people. About 50% of the phosphorus entering the lakes come in January, February, and March-runoff from spreading manure on frozen ground.

Some of the money for computer modeling is for what Bret called SWAT analysis. What this tries to do is identify specific areas that cause the worst runoff into the lakes. Of great concern are areas of new development where the ground is laid bare. Dane County has an erosion control ordinance and you see silt fences along areas of new development but all this is only as good as the enforcement. I think there is a lot of lax enforcement of this ordinance.

Bret briefly mentioned the carp roundup in Lake Wingra. It is estimated that 50% of the carp were removed and more is planned. Brett felt the water was noticeably clearer. He could see the tips of his fingers when swimming there in July.

Another item Bret discussed was water levels. The Department of Natural Resources sets minimum and

maximum water levels for the lakes. There is a six-inch band from the minimum to the maximum. About one-third of the time water levels are over the maximum and one-third of the time they are below the minimum. Some people want lower water levels to prevent flooding, others think they are fine. Fisheries people want high water levels in the spring to enhance spawning sites. Lake property owners want low levels in the winter to prevent ice damage to their shorelines. A one-inch rain in the Lake Mendota basin raises the water level one inch. There is a flow restriction at the railroad bridge above Lake Waubesa, at the McFarland Locks and the locks at the outlet of Lake Kegonsa. There is little elevation drop between Lake Monona and Lake Kegonsa so it is hard to "move" water. There has been a dam on Lake Mendota since the 1850s and in a natural state I'm sure the Yahara River between Lakes Mendota and Monona wasn't straight. It has been channelized. All this makes water levels physically hard to manage and to get agreement on how water levels should be managed.

Fourteen million dollars is a lot of money, and if the budget proposal passes it is probably money well spent, but don't expect miracles. I will give you a little quiz. Can you guess what years to following quotes about the Madison Lakes were written? "Turville Bay is filled with dense growths of aquatic vegetation"; "Along the southwest corner of Lake Waubesa there is abundant growths of larger aquatic plants in the shoal water": Upper Mud Lake is "a dense tangle of wild rice, reeds, and rushes; waterlilies abound everywhere", "Lake Monona has a practically continuous belt of weeds to a depth of

three meters"; "Rowing across Squaw Bay was a long, hard pull through close-grown patches of reeds and lily pads ..."; "Aquatic plant beds in Lake Waubesa were so dense that fisherman sometimes had difficulty rowing boats through..."; "In Lake Wingra dense growths of chara were interspersed between the emergents and wildcelery was particularly abundant". If you thought it was a year or two ago, you are wrong. You might be able to tell by the fact that some quotes talk about rowing. All these quotes were made before the 1920s. The Madison lakes were always productive, so even with the money spent, don't expect "gin" clear lakes.

All is not gloom and doom. We have made a lot of progress in protecting the lakes. Gone are the days of dumping sewage into the lakes. When I first starting working for Extension we had a meeting on the Madison Lakes in the late 1960s or early 1970s. Thayer Burnham, an "old-timer" at the time with the them Madison Public Health Department told the story that one of his first jobs with the city was putting a snow fence out in front of Law Park so the garbage didn't wash into the lake. As Bret Hulsey pointed out we have one of the best urban fisheries anywhere. We have come a long ways, there is still a lot more to do, it will take a long time to see results, so keep everything in perspective.

If you want to learn more about the future potential for the Madison Lakes you can attend the second Yahara Lakes Conference on October 10 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. For more information go to [www.nelson.wisc.edu/outreach/yahara](http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/outreach/yahara).

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Notes From the Prez

October Outing

This is certainly a busy time of the year. I haven't touched the water in over two weeks and I am getting withdrawal symptoms. I think a weekend on the Menominee River will do the trick.

It is very important that all members of this club read through the proposed By-Law and General Rule changes in this issue. We will be voting on them at the November meeting.

At our October meeting we will be voting for new Board members. We currently have seven open positions and five members have come forward: Jeff Wydeven, Jesse Swing, Roger Swenson, Tom Wilke and Phil Emmling. I will be calling for additional nominations before the vote. We need a minimum of two more nominees. It would be nice if we actually needed an election. The new Board will get organized, elect officers and set up committees at the November Board Meeting.

I am making another call for nominations for the Pete Froland Award. All nominations must be accompanied with a paragraph or two indicating why this person should win the award. The award is given to individuals who have made a long term contribution to the Yahara Fishing Club. The winner will be selected in December and the award given in January.

Geoff Crandall and Steve Reinstra from Capitol City Muskies will be presenting at our Oct. meeting. These two guys are full of knowledge regarding catching the elusive muskie on the Madison Lakes. I have fished with both of these guys and I always learn something from them.

Keep in mind the October Outing on Lake Mendota is Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. There should be some details elsewhere in this issue from outing leader Larry Mothershead. This was a good one last year – big fish!

All members must inform Jim Pankratz of their choice of how they want to get the newsletter – email or regular mail. Hopefully most members will choose email (if it is available to them) because this can save our club a lot of money.

It must have been a long time since I have been on the water, I'm out of stuff to talk about. The October and November meetings are very important. Make every effort to be there.

The Yahara Fishing Club has scheduled an outing for October 18<sup>th</sup> on Lake Mendota. This fishing trip is being planned by Larry Mothershead. He can be reached evenings and weekends at 608-273-9538 and on his cell (including outing day) 608-628-7822.

We had a club outing last year on Mendota near the same weekend and anglers were rewarded with Northern up to 40 inches plus large bass. The date of this outing was chosen because in past years large northern pike have moved to shallower water. These northern are vulnerable to casting techniques with large musky size lures. The basic technique is to use your electric trolling motor to move your boat within casting distance of submerged weed beds. Your boat should typically in water about 12-14 feet deep. Northern can hold over the grass beds or on the edge, so casting should cover all of these areas. For tackle, I would recommend a musky style rod spooled with a strong (60-80 pound test) super line to withstand the rigors of casting. We have used 80 pound fluorocarbon leaders and have not experienced a bite-off .

In past years, at this time of the year, we have seen northerns strike lures pulled with a steady retrieve. Large spinner baits, in line spinners

Lindy Gator Spoons and suspending jerk baits like Reef Hogs, Rapalas, Bull Dogs and Curly Sue's will all work. As the water continues to cool in late October and November, the northerns show a strong preference to lures reeled with a stop and go suspending retrieve. In the late season, the Reef Hog, Rapala and Curly Sue were the lures to use.

Boats can be launched at any ramp on Mendota. I will launch at Marshall Park at 7 AM and will have my cell phone. Hope to see you there.

Larry Mothershead

*I asked Larry if he could provide more details on the tackle he recommended, and his response is on page 5. Editor*

Fishing Season Never Ends,  
Duffy Kopf - Prez



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Yahara Fishing Club  
Proposed By-Law and General Rules Changes

The article below is the proposed By-Law and General Rule Changes that the General Membership will vote on during a Special Meeting near the start of the November meeting (7:30pm at the Lakeside VFW). All members should read through these changes and the vote must be a ¾ majority in order for the changes to pass.

If you have any questions on this, please feel free to contact any Board of Directors member.

Duffy Kopf

Presently What It Says:

**Article II of By-Laws:** The Annual Meeting of the members of the club shall be held in the month of September at a place and time as established by the Board of Directors. The President or Secretary shall give written notice of the time and place of such meeting, which notice shall be mailed via the newsletter or postcard, to each member in good standing as appears upon the membership records a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

**Article I of General Rules**

**1. Dues Of Members.** The dues of the members shall be established at a level by which the club may fulfill any or all of its monetary obligations. The aforementioned dues shall be payable and due in the month of the annual meeting (September). Any member whose dues are delinquent will no longer be seen as a member in good standing

**Article I of General Rules**

**3. Life Memberships.** Life Memberships shall be available at a cost of twenty-five times the current, yearly adult membership fee. These funds shall remain separate from the General Fund and the Endowment Fund. Each year, during the month of the annual meeting, the interest derived from the Life Membership Fund may be transferred to the General Fund by the Board of Directors. The purpose of the transfer of interest shall be to pay for the life members yearly club membership fee. The principal in the Life Membership Fund shall be used ONLY for debts incurred during the basic operation of the club and NOT for special projects.

Change It To:

**Article II of By-Laws:** The Annual Meeting of the members of the club shall be held in the month of December at a place and time as established by the board of Directors. The President or Secretary shall give written notice of the time and place of such meeting, which notice shall be mailed via the newsletter or postcard, to each member in good standing as appears upon the membership records a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

**Article I of General Rules**

**1. Dues of Members.** The dues of the members shall be established at a level by which the club may fulfill any or all of its monetary obligations. The aforementioned dues shall be payable and due in the month of the Annual Meeting (December). Any member whose dues are delinquent will no longer be recognized as a member in good standing.

**Article I of General Rules**

3. This section of Article I is eliminated (Life Membership)

Changes continue next page

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Presently What It Says:

Article III of General Rules

6. Expenditures. Only the Board of Directors may authorize spending YFC funds. The Board may spend up to \$500 without membership approval. Regardless of any other provision contained in these General Rules, no expenditure, disbursement or obligation which is in excess of \$500 shall be made, authorized, or incurred by the Board of Directors with the approval 2/3 of the club members present at any meeting. Even if a 2/3 vote recommends ANY expenditure, the Board may decide NOT to fund the request

Article IV of General Rules

1. Meetings. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without notice approximately seven days after each general membership meeting. The meeting shall be held at such place as agreed upon by the Directors. Additional Meetings may be called by the President of the club. The Directors shall receive five (5) days notice of such an Additional Meeting by mail or telephone or word of mouth.

Change it to:

Article III of General Rules

6. Expenditures. Only the Board of Directors may authorize spending any type of YFC funds. The Board may spend up to \$500 of unbudgeted money without membership approval. Regardless of any other provision contained in these General Rules, no expenditure, disbursement or obligation, which is in excess of \$500 of unbudgeted money, shall be made, authorized, or incurred by the Board of Directors with the approval of 2/3 of the club members present.

Article IV of General Rules

1. Meetings. A regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors will be held just prior to the meeting of the general membership. This meeting will be held at such place as agreed upon by the Directors. Additional Board meetings may be called by the President of the club. The Directors shall receive five (5) days notice of such an additional meeting by mail, telephone, email or word of mouth.

(NEW) Article V of General Rules

4. Board Members are allowed to miss two meetings in any calendar year. If a Director is going to miss a meeting, they shall contact the President in a timely manner. If a Director misses more than two meetings without notice or sufficient reason, this may be grounds for dismissal from the Board. Dismissal of a Director will occur upon the recommendation of the President and voted on by a majority of the Board of Directors. The YFC summer "On The Water" meetings are considered regular meetings. It is the duty of the secretary to keep a record of Directors' attendance.

October Outing -  
Specific tackle suggestions from  
Larry Mothershead  
  
*I believe the Gator spoons are only one size about 4-5 inches long. The Reef Hogs are 6 inch and custom weighted to suspend better. Rapala is large XRAP in larger size. Bull Dogs are medium sized and Curly Sue's are likely unavailable although Dorn used to have them and they may have some. Large Musky size spinner baits also work well. I got my 80 pound Flourcarbon on Ebay although I believe Gander or Dorn carry it. Colors-white spinner baits, yellow Reef Hogs, Silver or Brass Gator Spoons, Yellow X Raps, Curly Sue's Yellow/Black.*

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## Muskies on the Lower Wisconsin River

By Gary Engberg

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (LWR) was created in 1989 by the State of Wisconsin to protect and preserve the scenic beauty and natural character of the Wisconsin River valley, to manage the areas resources for the benefit of the state's residents, and to provide a quality public recreation area.

The Wisconsin River flows unimpeded by any man-made structures for 92.3 miles from the Prairie du Sac Dam downriver to its mouth at the Mississippi River. Many anglers have already put away their boats or are out hunting, so you rarely have any competition this time of the year. Often, you'll have the river to yourself!

The Lower Wisconsin River has a good population of Muskies that can be found anywhere from the dam and its tailrace area close to the dam and down river to the Highway 12 Bridge and the mouth of Second River. These muskies aren't stocked in the river and have either come from Lake Wisconsin (on the other side of the dam) or up from the Mississippi River. My guess is that they came from Muskies stocked in Lake Wisconsin and somehow made their way through the dam and the turbines. I've caught Muskies in the Wisconsin River for years and their numbers seem to be increasing with possible natural reproduction.

I recently had a conversation at the VFW boat landing just below the prairie Dam with Sauk County Warden, John Buss, who just happens to be a Muskie fisherman. Buss commented that the

Wisconsin River had been producing muskies all year with numerous fish in the low 40 inch range and some bigger. The minimum size on the river is 34 inches.

If you intend to fish the Wisconsin River for Muskies the best place to launch your boat is at the VFW Park in Prairie du Sac. The park is located past the Highway 60 Bridge off Water Street. Turn right at the VFW sign and go down the hill to the park. The parking fee is only \$5.00 and you can see the dam from the launch. There also are campsites available for \$12.00 a night with a fire-pit and on the river. So, for under \$20.00 you can have a campsite, launch your boat, be close to the dam, and be within a few miles of the all the good fishing.

Slowly motor your boat toward the dam and stay in the channel because the river can be low in the fall. Then, put down your trolling motor and work the east and west sides of the dam casting bucktails, jerkbaits, and shallow running crankbaits. Baits that have worked well for me include; Smity baits, Bucher Depth Raiders, and Grandma baits. The best colors seem to be consistent with the river's main forage fish, the gizzard shad. This means that silver/black and white/black are the colors to start your river fishing with. Other colors to use are; perch, orange/black, and blue/white. The best blade colors that I've found over the years are silver, gold, and copper.

The east shore right below the dam is a hot spot for Muskies with a back-eddy along this 150 yard stretch. There are large number of


shad and rough fish that congregate in the deep scour hole right below the dams main gates that is over 35 feet deep. This deep water gives the Muskie a place to rest after feeding on shad on the shoreline feeding flats.

This time of the year the river water is still in the 50's and rivers with their moving water and current don't experience turnover. The Wisconsin River has abundant wood, rocks, islands, and sand bars which all provide amble structure for big Muskies. They have it all in the dam area, forage, deep water, and structure. I recommend that you work both sides of the river to the highway 12 Bridge and then work your way casting the other shoreline back to the dam area. Drifting and casting works now with the low flow and current, but working off a bow or transom trolling motor is the best way to go if you keep casting while moving.

Fall is a time of the year when live bait can be the key to catching fish. When casting, make sure to put a sucker out near your boat. Quick set rigs are now the way to go because they allow you to set the hook quickly and not gut-hook and kill a fish.

Give the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway a chance next time you looking for a new place to Muskie fish.

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# October Meeting

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – Guest Speakers are Geoff Crandall and Steve Reinstra from Capital City Muskies Inc. Geoff and Steve will offer effective presentations for live bait, casting, and trolling on the Yahara Chain. Get ready for fall Musky opportunities by finding out where, when and how to find the big ones!

### SPEAKER BIOS

#### Bio: Steve Reinstra

Steve Reinstra, a licensed guide by the State of Wisconsin, has over 50 years of experience with 11 years concentrating on Muskie fishing. He is owner of Madison Musky Troller, LLC guide service [www.madisonmuskytroller.com].

Steve has served as President of Capital City Chapter of Muskies Inc. (CCMI) from 2005-2007 and is currently a member of the Board of Directors.



Steve Reinstra with 40" caught on Wingra Trolling 8/28/08.

#### Bio: Geoff Crandall

Geoff Crandall, a licensed guide by the State of Wisconsin, has over 50 years of experience fishing in Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, New York, Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. Geoff has concentrated on Muskie fishing over the past 16 years with a concentration on lakes throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota and Canada.

Geoff served as President of Capital City Chapter of Muskies Inc. 2003-2005, past Vice President, past newsletter editor, and currently a member of the CCMI Board of Directors and the Dean of and Instructor for the Annual CCMI Madison Muskie School. In 2007, he built a 14' wooden cedar strip/mahogany row troller - configured for muskie trolling.

## Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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### Annual Dues:

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Except for special Summer "On the water" dates, 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.

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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, October 14th**, 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

### October Events

October 14<sup>th</sup> Club meeting - Lakeside VFW Hall

Speakers - Geoff Crandall and Steve Reinstra from Capital City Muskies. See page 3.

October 18<sup>th</sup> Club Outing - Lake Mendota Pike

Organizer - Larry Mothershead. See page 4.

### November Events

November 11<sup>th</sup> Club meeting - Lakeside VFW Hall

Speaker - to be announced

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

President - Larry Kopf.....849-7245  
Vice President - Paul Marunich...219-4449  
Secretary - Jim Zegers.....848-6299  
Treasurer - Brad Czebotar .....838-9458

Director - Rick Lane .....873-5228  
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Director - Jim Pankratz.....288-9789  
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