



October
2009

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

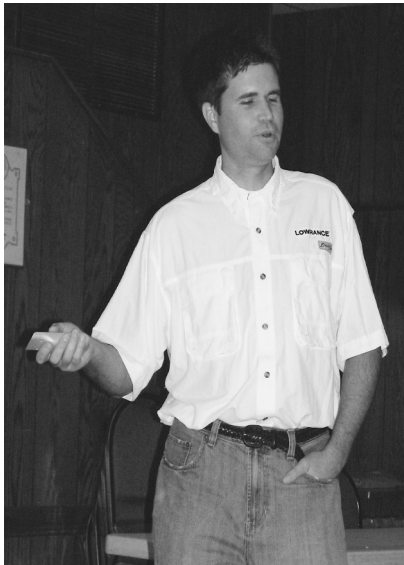
Club Web site: <http://www.yaharafishingclub.org/>

Midnight Muskies

Notes by Stan Nichols

Well, it may be not midnight, but muskies after dark was the title of guide Adam Oberfoell's talk at the September YFC meeting. The advantage of fishing muskies after dark is that most of the food chain converges on weed edges at last light. This includes muskies and that puts them in shallow water where they are accessible to bait casting. It seems that fish have heightened senses after dark. The best reason to fish after dark is it is the greatest chance of getting a really big fish.

You need special considerations for safety and convenience when fishing after dark. Fish only lakes and areas that you know intimately. Leave your bow and anchor lights turned on at all times. This doesn't affect the fish. Buy the brightest headlamp you can find and carry a high-power search light in the boat. Keep your release tools and camera handy. Hook cutters are especially important at night, fish are more likely to engulf the bait. Bring spare everything. Add floats and glow tape to important tools. Have a place everything and everything in its place, and know where that place is. Simplify your equipment to the basics. When fishing with a partner, have him use his headlight if you are trying to land a fish.



Where are some likely places to find muskies after dark? A logical place is where you've seen fish during the day. Other likely spots include weed edges, rocks, and flats. Many species of fish, including forage species move

into weeds after the sun goes down. For safety, be careful when fishing rocks. Rocks are hard on props, skegs, and boat bottoms. Muskies tend to roam on flats after dark so keep moving to find them. An overlooked area is boat launches. The reason boat launches are good is not certain but it may be because of lights, because anglers throw bait away at launches, or because power loading of boats stirs up the bottom and fires up the food chain.

Heavily pressured and clear lakes are especially good after dark. When fishing clear lakes after dark presentations still have to be subtle. Baits do not have to be "loud" but you should experiment with different colors. In dark water, color doesn't seem to be critical but use baits that make more vibration and noise. Dark water lakes seem to be better under the full moon than do clear water lakes. Large profile baits and a slow, steady retrieve is best after dark.

Adam doesn't have a clear preference for moon phase when fishing at night but he is a believer in moon rise and moon set as good times to be fishing. Weather trumps the moon and an approaching weather front is worth getting out of bed for, no matter what time of night.

Other tips Adam gave include using topwater and spinnerbaits over and in the weeds. Spinnerbaits are less likely to tangle in the weeds. On topwaters he bends the hooks out slightly and puts shrink tubing on the hook shank to hold it out straight. As always for all your lures maintain sharp hooks. Large, double 10 bucktails work well after dark if you can get them cleanly through the weeds. Slow, steady retrieves with jointed Depth Raiders work in deeper water. Experiment with colors, it is helpful if you fish with a color you can see after dark. When in doubt use black. Always use a figure 8. In fact two full figure 8's or 3-D figure 8's are recommended. Change the speed and direction of your lure when it approaches the boat. Adam doesn't depend on the drag on his reels. He cranks them down tight, but uses long rods, 80 # super line, and

Continued next page.

180 # leaders. Any freshwater fish is unlikely to break that combination. Long rods are also helpful for making big figure 8's. Large fish need room to turn.

Trolling is also effective after dark. Go slow, 1.8 to 2.5 miles per hour. You can do that with an electric or a gas motor. Keep your rod tips in the water to reduce weeds snagging on your line. Use at least a two-foot leader. Muskies tend to roll on your line when caught by trolling and can easily cut your line with their gill plates. Electronics are vital after dark, especially for trolling, but also for safety sake.

After catching that big fish, release it properly. That may mean cutting the hooks. Don't release the fish in water deeper than ten feet. Fatigued muskies tend to drop to the lake bottom to rest. In deep water that can be fatal.

We can discuss fishing techniques all night, but a positive attitude will put more fish in the boat than will any lure. If your not having luck, be prepared to change. Don't get into a fishing rut. You may have to put in long days and nights on the water but success comes when you realize that you need to be on the water when the fish eat, not when it is convenient for you. Part of a positive attitude is the proper diet and rest. You won't have a positive attitude if you are constantly "worn out".

Photos of club members with fish

Jim Pankratz at the June outing on Mendota with a bass, Clay Russell at the June outing on Mendota with a bass, and my daughter Daniell on fathers day with a 10.25" Blugill from lake Mendota.

Rick Seeger



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Notes From The Prez

Fishing has been pretty slow except for bluegills. This forces me to think about how the club is responding to our need for new Board members. We have a bunch of openings and it would be good if we could fill them all. At this point I have two nominees. The election is at the beginning of our next meeting (7:00pm). I will be taking last second nominations right before the election. We need people who are willing to do a little work and make a contribution to our club. Think about it and act on it.

I am also asking for nominations for the Pete Froland Award. Contact any Board member with your nomination and you must include why you think this person deserves the award based on outstanding contributions to our club over a long period of time.

I don't know about you, but I thought that Adam gave a great talk at our September meeting. He covered all of the basics and had the crowd focused on what he was talking about. Good job Adam.

Keep in mind that our next outing is October 17th on Lake Mendota for pike. Larry Mothershead will have the details in this newsletter. We need lots of boats because we are doing this in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin Fishing Team and we need to put all of those kids on the water. Don't know a lot about pike fishing? Don't worry about it. Show up and Larry will put you on fish (no pressure Larry).

Contact Tom Wilke about clothing and hats. He has order forms and will help you with this. I really like my hat and shirt and the decal looks great on my boat.

Keep in mind that the fishing contest ends November 30. Let's make sure that Clay doesn't try to enter any Texas fish. Good luck Clay!

Tom Raschke (editor of the newsletter and website) asked for help from a club member at the last meeting. We need someone to back Tom up in an emergency. Let me or Tom know if you are interested.

Game fish have been harder to come by on Mendota recently. Hopefully my luck will change as I take some Waunakee High Schools out this coming weekend. Pray for me.

Anyone will to lead an outing in November or December. If you are, please let me know. The more of these outings we have, the more attractive our club becomes to non-members.

I will hand over my gavel to the new President at the November meeting. My next column will be my last. If you think the column was valuable to you, please encourage the new President to continue this. If you thought it was a waste of time to read the ramblings of an old fart.....



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Northern Pike Outing

We will meet Saturday October 17th at Marshal Park on Lake Mendota for our fall outing. The time to meet is 7 AM. The park is located off of Allen Boulevard in the town of Middleton. To get there from the North take County M around the lake until it intersects Allen Boulevard. Turn left and the park is about a mile on the left. From the South you can take University Boulevard and it intersects Allen Boulevard near the Imperial Gardens Restaurant.

This year we will have a joint outing with the University of Wisconsin Fishing Club. We estimate that we will need about 8 boats to include a member or two from the team.

The general technique that most people use is to cast musky size lures near the edge and over grass beds. Reef Hogs that have been weighted to suspend are my favorite lures although other lures will work as well. I have had success with Gator Spoons, spinner baits, in line spinners and Rapala X-Raps. All of the mentioned lures should be larger with strong hooks.

Standard bait casting musky style rods with braided line will work well. Other species that may grab a lure include largemouth and smallmouth bass and walleye.

For those that are going please call Larry Mothershead 608-273-9538 to let me know if you can accommodate a member of the University of Wisconsin Fishing Team. I will carry my cell phone in the boat 608-628-7822 and people can call the day of the event if they wish.

Larry Mothershead <cmothers@chorus.net>

October Speaker

The October speaker will be Kurt Welke from the DNR. He will talk about information gathered during this past springs surveys, and give an update on the status of invasive species in our area lakes. Thanks,

Rick Seeger

What Fish is this?



A Walleye, of course

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Recipies from Stan Nichols

Fish Tacos

-Mix one packet of taco seasoning with ¼ cup of water (Simply Organic Fish Taco seasoning is recommended if you can find it)

-Use one pound of fresh fish, cut into ½ inch strips (any white fish like walleye, bluegill, crappie, northern pike, etc. will do).

-Put everything in a plastic bag and marinate for 30 minutes.

-Place fish on aluminum foil and grill. Alternatively, brush fish on both sides with oil and season with salt and pepper. Cook fish until golden brown on both sides, about 4 minutes per side. Let rest for 5 minutes, Flake fish into large pieces.

-Squeeze one large lime over fish before serving

-Meanwhile heat eight corn or flour tortilla shells in the oven (preheat oven to 300 degrees, stack the tortillas on top of each other, wrap in aluminum foil to warm)

-Put some fish in the center of each tortilla. Top with choice of condiments such as onion, shredded cheese, chopped tomatoes, sour cream, lettuce, and salsa.

Makes about four servings of two tacos each.

Cajun Fried Gator

If you get down south this winter here is a recipe you may want to try:

Ingredients:

- Allegro sauce (I don't know what that is)
- Half jar of mustard
- 1 Tsp. Garlic powder
- 2 tbsp Tabasco Sauce
- 2 lbs of Gator Meat
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- 1 bag of Fish Batter (Andy's is recommend but may not be able to find it locally)
- Peanut oil

Cooking directions:

Marinate the gator meat in Allegro Sauce 4 to 5 hours. Season with salt and pepper. Mix mustard, garlic powder and Tabasco sauce in a bowl. Prepare fish batter according to instructions on the bag. Dip the marinated gator meat into the mustard mixture and then dip it into the fish batter. Fry in peanut oil at 375-400 degrees until golden brown.

People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish.

Hi Tom,

I'm in marketing at the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, and here at the Press we are currently promoting our lead book for fall '09, called "People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish." As part of the Wisconsin Book Festival, we are holding an event at the Brittingham Boathouse on Monona Bay to celebrate the release of the book- the authors will be on hand to discuss the sturgeon spearing tradition in Wisconsin, there will be a book signing, coffee and donuts, etc. The authors are Ron Bruch, the Natural Resources Region Team Supervisor for the WI DNR and lead sturgeon biologist for the Winnebago system, and Kathy Schmitt Kline, a science writer at the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute.

This event would have a lot of appeal to Madison area fishing enthusiasts. I'm sending you an invitation in a separate email- would you be able to forward this invitation on to the Yahara Fishing Club member listserv, or possibly post the information on your website?

Thanks for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Take care,
Susan

Susan Tierney
Marketing Assistant
Wisconsin Historical Society Press
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706
(t) 608-264-6465

(Editor: See notice on Page 7. I also added this notice to our website.)

Invasive species spreads to Vilas County lake in Wisconsin

(This notice is a year old but the flea was found by UW limnology professor Jake Vander Zanden in Mendota on September 11th. It is in Mendota, Monona and Waubesa. Editor)

The spiny water flea, a small but aggressive aquatic invasive species, has made its way into another of Wisconsin's lakes, University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers reported last week. The spiny water flea, an aquatic invasive species with a barbed spine twice as long as its body, has infested two inland lakes in Wisconsin. Spread from lake to lake by boaters, it may negatively impact native lake ecosystems by preying on native species and competing with young fish for food.

The discovery of spiny water fleas in Stormy Lake in Vilas County makes the lake only the second inland body of water in the state known to harbor this invasive species. The first Wisconsin population was discovered in 2003 by UW-Madison researchers in the Gile Flowage, near Hurley, Wis. Researchers at UW-Madison's Trout Lake Station found the invasive species while monitoring the lake for other types of zooplankton, the tiny aquatic animals that form the basis of lake food chains, says James Rusak, a Center for Limnology scientist based at Trout Lake.

Spiny water fleas prey heavily on native zooplankton and may disrupt lake ecosystems by competing with young fish for food, says UW-Madison limnologist Jake Vander Zanden, who studies aquatic invasive species. Although the small invasive crustaceans are also a type of zooplankton, their namesake spines — barbed, and up to two-thirds of their half-inch length — make them poor fodder for larval fish.

"That spine makes them really horrible food for young fish," he says. "Small fish are not able to consume these creatures." Ecosystem and food web changes may impact fish populations in invaded lakes, though specific effects are hard to predict, he says. Like other aquatic invasive species, spiny water fleas are primarily spread by boaters who travel between infested and non-infested waters. The population now established in Stormy Lake probably started when boaters inadvertently transported water from an infested lake or reservoir, likely one in Michigan's Upper Peninsula or one of the Great Lakes, says Vander Zanden.

The troublesome European native reached

the Great Lakes at least two decades ago, probably in ship ballast water, and has been spreading inland ever since in areas including the Upper Peninsula and Ontario, Canada. Although Wisconsin has been largely unaffected to date, Vander Zanden says the discovery in Stormy Lake could indicate that the state's waters are now at greater risk.

Spiny water flea spread has followed a pattern in other areas, he says. "Once they start getting into the inland lakes, they start to accelerate the rate of invasion of new inland lakes. You see one, then the next year you see a few, next you see a bunch, and soon you see tremendous numbers of lakes invaded." Based on these patterns of spiny water flea spread in other states and Canada, he and other scientists have been monitoring Wisconsin's waters for signs of the small invasive zooplankton.

"It's been on our radar, but we haven't seen it spread until now," says Rusak, one of the scientists involved in the monitoring. "It seems like a fairly recent addition to Stormy Lake." The positive test in Stormy Lake highlights the need for active steps to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, says Julia Solomon, aquatic invasives education specialist for UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "Unfortunately, there are no effective ways to control spiny water fleas once they're in a lake, which makes prevention very important," she says. "There are only two populations of spiny water flea in the state of Wisconsin and there are 15,000 lakes that don't have spiny water flea. It's really important to stop them from spreading now, while there are only two invaded inland lakes," agrees Vander Zanden.

Because the spiny water flea and other aquatic invasive species are primarily spread by boaters, the DNR reminds boaters that cleaning their boats and equipment is vital to preventing further spread. The good news, says Solomon, is that the steps to rid boats and gear of water fleas are the same steps that the DNR has been encouraging all boaters to take to prevent the spread of other aquatic invaders.

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People of the Sturgeon

Celebrate Wisconsin's sturgeon spearing tradition at the 2009 Wisconsin Book Festival! The Wisconsin Historical Society Press presents authors Kathy Schmitt Kline and Ron Bruch to discuss Wisconsin's sturgeon spearing tradition and their new book, "People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish." This compelling environmental chronicle tells the story of a century's worth of dedicated work and careful management that has made Wisconsin's lake sturgeon population, which once teetered on the edge of extinction, the world's largest and healthiest.

Stop by the Brittingham Boathouse on Monona Bay to meet the authors, share fish tales, and enjoy coffee and donuts.

"People of the Sturgeon" at
Brittingham Boathouse
Saturday, October 10th
10:00am - 12:00pm
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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, October 13th**, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Rr. & Lakeside St.)
The Board Of Directors meet at 6:00 pm, The **General Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm.**

Speaker: Kurt Welke from the DNR.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October Events

October 13th YFC October Monthly Meeting at the VFW hall. Kurt Welke from the DNR.
See Page 3.

October 17th YFC outing - on Mendota, lead by Larry Mothershead.
See Page 3

November Events

November 10th - September Monthly Meeting at the VFW hall.

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

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Vice President - Paul Marunich...219-4449
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