



# September

## 2008

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## Fall Fishing at Clements Fishing Barge on the Mississippi River

By Gary Engberg

Most people think of fishing the Mississippi River during the early spring when walleyes, saugers, and northern pike are starting to come out of their winter doldrums and preparing to spawn. But, think about going to the "Big Muddy" in the fall because September, October, and November can often be the best fishing months of the year at Clements Fishing Barge. The Barge closed July 27<sup>th</sup> and re-opens for the fall on August 29<sup>th</sup> till closing for the year on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Clements Fishing Barge has been located for the last 64 years below Lock and Dam #8 on the Mississippi River. They have the largest fishing float on the river in one of its prime fishing locations at Genoa, Wisconsin. Clements opens at 7:00 A.M. and closes at 6:00 P.M. To fish on the float, Clements picks you up on the Wisconsin side of the river in a 21 passenger covered vessel. Once you cross over to the Minnesota side, you have your choice of fishing locations on 8 floating piers which all have an experienced fishing guide to help and assist you. The floats have chairs, benches, and shelters for your convenience. The charge for fishing all day is \$16.00 for adults and only \$5.00 for children under 12 years old.

The Barge fishing can be outstanding and usually there is something that is biting. The variety of fish species includes walleye, sauger, northern pike, white bass, small and



largemouth bass, panfish, sturgeon, and catfish. The walleye and sauger fishing is great in the fall and these species are what most people come to fish for. If you don't have equipment, Clements rents fishing rods and reels. If you are interested in what kind of tackle to bring give them a call or email (800-903-4903 or [www.clements-fishing.com](http://www.clements-fishing.com)). They

have a very good website with all the information you need to know.

The fishing float also carries food. They serve breakfast and have sandwiches, chips, candy, and pop. Fishing tackle and accessories are sold and they carry a full line of anything that you may need that day. There are many different kinds of jigs which are especially good for river fishing. When fishing rivers, a round head jig is not always the best, so most anglers use the flatter style jigs that cut the water better allowing you to get the jig to the bottom without using too heavy a jig.

The distance from some Midwestern cities is; Chicago 270 miles, Des Moines 250 miles, Minneapolis 160 miles, and Milwaukee 174 miles. Genoa has a variety of places to stay, eat, and buy tackle and bait. The folks at Clements Barge will gladly assist you in finding lodging and helping you in any way that they can. This year, Clements has their own cabins for rent. All one has to do is call or email them and you'll get a speedy answer for any question.

According to Mark Clement, "Fishing always improves in early fall. Walleye and sauger fishing is usually pretty good. Most of them are caught on jigs and minnows.

*Continued next page*

Barge, continued

The blue head with blue/white or red/blue/white tail is one of the best color combinations during fall. Blade baits (Sonars and Zips) are also good this time of year, with the fire-tiger being the best bet. Northern are common, much to the dismay of the walleye fisherman. They keep catching northern while fishing for walleye and sauger! A lot of big Mud cats are also caught while walleye fishing. Fishing improves every day as the fall progresses. We look forward to a great fall of fishing, so don't forget to get booked for a room because they fill up fast this time of year."

If you're looking for a great way to spend a day or two and have some good fishing, contact Mark at Clements Fishing Barge for the latest up to date fishing report.

Contact; Clements Fishing Barge (www.clements-fishing.com or 1-800-903-4903.



If people have put their boats away Clements is open till November 23 with good fishing most of the fall. They now have a cabin or two for rent right by the dam. This is a great place for senior anglers like most of us. No boat to pull, no hassles, and plenty of fish. Everything is there. Check out their website for any other questions.

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Phone & Fax 608 795-4208  
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August On The Water meeting



September meeting

We are working to line up a September speaker. As soon as we get one we will publish the results on our website: <http://www.yaharafishingclub.org/>



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Notes From the Prez

I'd like to start this column off by reminding everyone that we will have our Sept. meeting at the Lakeside VFW. The Board of Directors meet at 6:15 and the general meeting begins at 7:30. See you there.

At this point in time it is very important that everyone knows that we have 7 Board positions open and only one nominee. We have built up a lot of momentum over the last year and I would like to see that continue. You can nominate someone (with their approval) or you can self-nominate. We need people to run for these positions. Are you willing to do some work for the benefit of our club, or do you think that someone else will always do it? Do you have some ideas for new activities or changes to what we already do to make them better? If no one else is nominated, we will be running the club with six people. That is half of what we should have minimum. Half the work getting done. This would not be a very good situation. Step up to the plate and take a swing! The election of these new Board members will be at the October meeting.

The Board will be considering some possible By-Law changes and eventually they will be proposed to the general membership where we will vote on these changes. Once we decide which ones to change, you will be informed of these changes in the next newsletter so you can be informed coming into the October meeting.

The Board will also be working on ideas for raising more money and ways to improve what we already do. When a decision is made, these will

also be published in the newsletter.

Besides the needed nominations for the Board, Sept. opens nominations for the Pete Frohland Award. This is given to a member who has contributed to the Yahara Fishing Club over a long period of time. If you have someone you would like to nominate, please let me, or any other Board member



know. You must also include at least a paragraph explaining why you feel this member should win the award.

So much for business. I went back to work today after spending

all day Tuesday on Mendota. I didn't have a great day, but it was fairly cool and not too windy. It was refreshing and it energized me for my first day of work. I also spent the late afternoon and into the night on the Wisconsin River fishing for muskies. I had to put on a flannel shirt after the sun went down – my kind of day. It was really a beautiful day and again I was refreshed by the experience.

It has been a great summer. I fished more days this summer than any other in my life. Sometimes by myself, sometimes with others along with a little guiding. Many fish were caught and there certainly is a lot of laughter. I don't like the fact that I now lose the freedom to fish pretty much anytime I want during the week (I know you are all feeling sorry for me). I have a couple of tournaments to look forward to and the fall season increases the chances of big fish. Larry Mothershead will be heading the October outing. Keep you eyes open for details.

I am thankful for the situation I am in when it comes to fishing. I also get to work with great kids every year. They also keep me energized. They are all keepers (well -- most of them).

I'll see you at the Sept. meeting at the VFW. If you have anything you have to communicate with me on, let me know in person, by phone or by email.

**Fishing Season Never Closes, Duffy Kopf - Prez**

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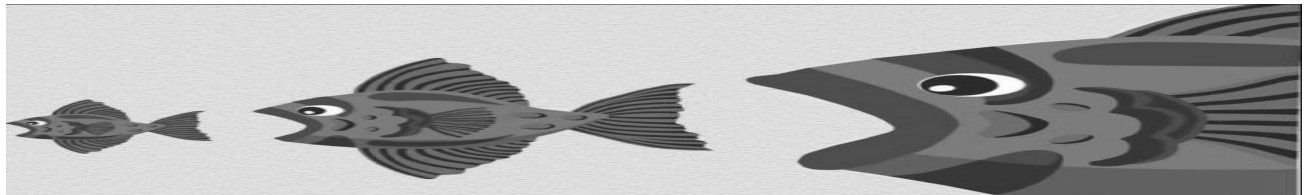
BADGER TURFVENT

None of our pro speakers ever told us about this rod.

Paige Thomas' first fishing experience was a memorable one – all the other kids made fun of her because she was fishing with her “Barbie Doll” fishing rod. As it turns out, that Barbie Doll rod worked just fine — Paige was the first and only person to reel in a fish that day!

She's been fishing ever since and even digs her own worms for bait, although she doesn't bait her own hook just yet. But she figures she'll have plenty of opportunities to learn how to bait her hook particularly now that she's won a lifetime fishing license

Photo released by the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission,



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## Sturgeon hook and line season to open Sept. 6 with new regulations

MADISON – The 2008 hook and line season for lake sturgeon opens Sept. 6 on major river systems statewide, with rule changes aimed at assuring the future of the state's sturgeon fisheries. The hook and line season for lake sturgeon, Wisconsin's oldest and largest fish, opens Sept. 6 on major Wisconsin rivers. WDNR PhotoThe season has been shortened and ends Sept. 30, and the minimum length for harvesting sturgeon has been increased to 60 inches. There is a one-fish limit per season on those waters where there is an open season. There is catch and release only fishing on a stretch of the Menominee River downstream from the Hattie Street dam to Green Bay. The St. Croix River below St. Croix Falls, which borders Wisconsin and Minnesota, will not be affected by the permanent rule this season. Opening day there is also Sept. 6 and the season will close Oct. 15. There is a 50-inch minimum length harvest limit and a one-per-season bag. The state Natural Resources Board adopted the changes earlier this year to reduce the sturgeon harvest on several popular fisheries and provide additional protection to spawning females, according to Karl Scheidegger, who leads the Department of Natural Resources sturgeon management team. "Increasing angler

pressure and harvest trends prompted the rule change to protect the fisheries," Scheidegger says. "We had the same season structure and harvest rules in place in 2007 under emergency rules, and they worked well. They allowed all interested anglers to participate in the season while protecting the reproductive females." Lake sturgeon are slow-growing, late maturing fish, with females spawning for the first time when they are 20 to 25 years old and then only every three to five years thereafter. Because females are larger than males, they are often targeted by anglers, and their over-harvest can cause population declines that may take years to recover. "These changes will allow Wisconsin to continue to offer a unique angling season into the future. We hope anglers will continue to participate and continue to support our sturgeon management efforts," Scheidegger says.

Remember to buy a harvest tag if anglers do plan to harvest a sturgeon this season, they must purchase a harvest tag before they fish. The sturgeon harvest tag was implemented for the first time in the 2006 hook and line season. All revenues from the harvest tag sales go directly to projects dedicated to the

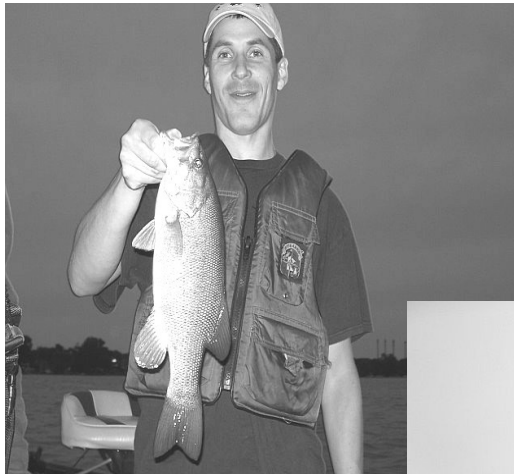
improvement of sturgeon populations and habitats and therefore, better fishing opportunities. No tag is needed if anglers are catch and release fishing only. The harvest tag is available throughout the season and costs \$20 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. It can be purchased: over the Internet through the Online Licensing Center; by calling toll-free 1-877-WI LICENSE (1-877-945-4236); at license sales locations; or DNR service centers during their regular business hours (check service center link for hours of operation, which vary by service center; service centers are closed Saturdays). Anglers who harvest a legal-size fish must immediately attach the harvest tag to the fish and take it to a registration station by 6 p.m. the next day for registration. All anglers must have a Wisconsin general inland fishing license unless they are under 16 years old, or were born before Jan. 1, 1927.



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August Club Pictures



Jim Pankratz



Clay Russell

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# Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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## Annual Dues:

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

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, September 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.**

Speaker: See Website <http://www.yaharafishingclub.org/>

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### September Events

September 9th<sup>th</sup> Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, Lakeside VFW Hall  
Speaker: To be announced on the website.

### October Events

October 14th<sup>th</sup> Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, 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	Director - Rick Lane .....873-5228	Director - Jayne Meyer.....662-9374
Vice President - Paul Marunich...219-4449	Director - Eric Uram.....233-9022	Director - Rick Seeger.....849-3714
Secretary - Jim Zegers.....848-6299	Director - Jim Pankratz.....288-9789	Editor - Tom Raschke.....233-6765
Treasurer - Brad Czebotar .....838-9458	Director - Bonnie Miller.....824-9792	Fishing Expo - Jeff Western....831-1092

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



Yahara Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 3271  
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