



September
2010

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

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

EAGLE LAKE ADVENTURE

By Duffy Kopf

My recent muskie fishing trip to Eagle Lake, Ontario has now become one of the highlights of my life. As a result, I thought that I would write it up and share it with other people to let them know what it was like and possibly to encourage some to give this trip a try.

Luck seems to be a bold line running through the middle of my life. I recently retired from teaching after 37 years. I never worked for a poor principal and I had the opportunity to work with the best kids the State of Wisconsin has to offer. After I quit coaching after the 1996 season, I have been able to fish often, long and hard. My luck did not run out with my wife. She patiently tolerates my obsession with the sport of fishing and my need to participate in outdoor activities. I consider myself lucky to be able to go up to Eagle Lake Lodge and fish Eagle Lake.

Six of us planned this trip out well in advance (like a military operation) and the organization of this adventure went a long way to make it a success. The personalities and patience that each of us exhibited led to a lot of laughter and a bonding process took place during the week.



One of the six, Lee Bartolini, picked me up on August 13th at about 9:30am. Lee is from Mt. Horeb and the secretary of Capital City Muskies. The combination of his Jeep and Alumacraft boat performed



very well over the week. We got a late start so we decided to spend the first night in Virginia, MN. If you need a simple, inexpensive motel in the Virginia area, book a room at the Pine View Inn.

We left the next morning for International Falls/Fort Frances and were soon in line for crossing into Canada. The gal working the booth was quick, efficient and let her sense of humor slip out. Just handing them your passport really speeds up the process. Take off your hat and sunglasses and answer the questions directly and quickly.

Once in Fort Frances we took Hwy 11 east for about 20 miles (kilometer is the official measurement in Canada) and then headed north on the famous 502 (no shoulder and often sheer rock walls) on which you don't want to break down or get a flat tire. We traveled until about 25 miles south of Dryden and traffic in both directions came to a dead stop. An accident forced a timber truck across both lanes and it took 2 hours to get moving again. In that time we got to know a few of the other people who were stranded with us and one lady was playing a mandolin sitting on the side of the road. The occupants of the SUV in the accident were air lifted out to Thunder Bay.

After we got rolling again we turned west before we got to Dryden and traveled through the small Indian village of Eagle River. Another 4 miles and we turned into the driveway for the Eagle Lake Lodge. I had never been there before and I didn't know what to

Continued next page

expect. Our cabin was right next to the Lodge and it worked our very well. I have no connection to Eagle Lake Lodge so I have no problem stating that owners Scott and Marie run a top-notch facility. It is not fancy, but you really have all the comforts of home. I would recommend that anyone who wants to fish Eagle Lake should consider staying at the Eagle Lake Lodge. They let us use their outdoor grill to cook some food, they provide all the towels you need along with the bedding. You can fill up your cooler with ice from their ice machine whenever it is convenient for you. They even serve a free fish fry one night during your stay. The food was great.

The first night we stayed there, we broke out our map of Eagle Lake and we marked it up with the advice of Scott's son Tyler. Tyler gave us a lot of detail and made sure that he indicated all the danger spots (Eagle Lake has rock reefs out in the middle of no where that can eat up your lower unit). This helped us make decisions on where and how we will fish. Tyler, along with Anthony make sure you are taken care of at the front dock. All week, if we needed anything, all we had to do was ask.

I sounds like this place may be a little expensive. We had six fishermen in the cabin, which was not fancy, but very comfortable and I was very surprised at how inexpensive it was. You get a wide choice of the many services the lodge offers. If you go there, I am confident that you will be happy.

The weather was terrible the first two days, but all six of us (three boats) fished long and hard every day. Fish were hard to come by and it was cold enough to turn in heat on at night. It is August in Wisconsin, but it is the start of fall in Ontario. We did not catch a great number of muskies (nine fish for 6 guys). We caught a fair number of northern pike and I established a new personal best of 39.5".

We averaged 11/12 hours of hard fishing and everyone was tired by the end of the day. No party time for this group. The "hot" bait in our boat was a 7.5" silver and black Grandma twitched hard back to the boat.

It was really a lot of fun going with a group of fishermen who all had the same goals and were all what I call "diehards" (Geoff Crandall, Denny Lytle, Shane Nesheim and Gene Edwards are all members of Capital City Muskies). All of us wanted to put in long days throwing big baits hoping that a large fish would take a swipe at it. We were all willing to put up with sore fingers, wrists and backs (we are all over sixty years old except for one 38 year old). Early in the week the weeds were the key to finding fish. As the weather improved and the water started warming, the rocks were the key to success. The lodge is close to the Eagle River which (outflow from the lake) produced a fair number of fish.

In addition to the fishing was the scenery in the area. Just spending a week in this environment was very refreshing. I am including a few pictures along with this article to illustrate what a magnificent body of water we were able to fish. Most of the shoreline is totally devoid of any buildings. The eagles, many other bird species and even a swimming squirrel sometimes distracted me from the job at hand.

Eagle Lake also has many walleyes and small-mouth bass to fish for. If you want to fish in a place where God has done some of his best work, head north next summer to this fisherman's playground. If you need a place to stay, give Eagle Lake Lodge a try and you will have a great experience.

Duffy Kopf
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Jiffy Ice Drill Pro Staff
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Yahara Fishing Club
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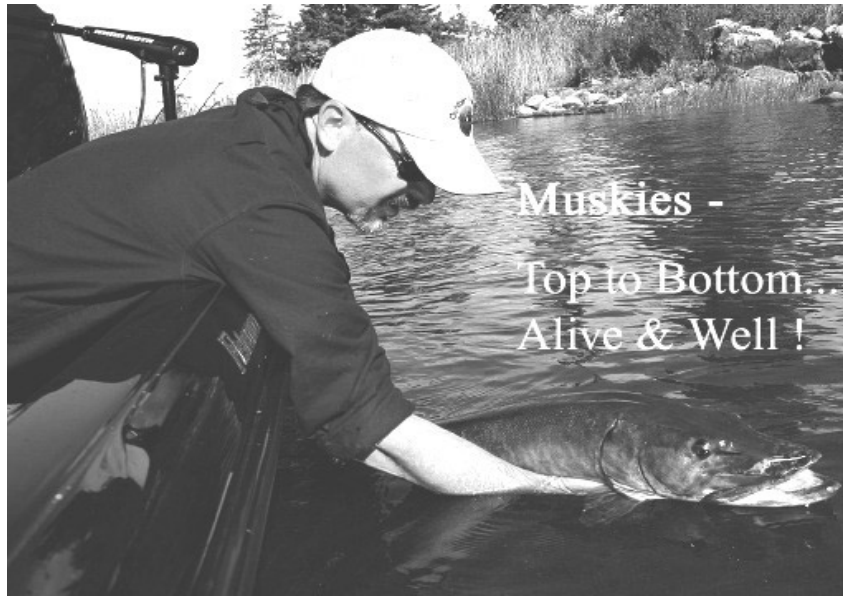


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Sept. 18th is Family Outdoor Education Day at Gander Mountain.

Duffy

September Meeting Speaker - Wally Banfi



Wally specializes in Muskie, Bass, Walleye and Panfish. A native of Madison, Wally has over 25 years experience fishing the Madison Chain and is a co-host of the popular Outdoor Horizons radio show.

August On The Water Pictures from Charlie's boat.



Charlie



Dale



Tom

Notes from the Prez

You know I have often said that if you took all the bluegills out of Lake Monona.....the lake would go down 6 inches! That's probably not far from being accurate. And since late spring-early summer I have been able to get as many as I wanted out there! I'm talkin' nice respectable fish that some folks who live on lakes full of runts would be darn proud of. That came to a screeching halt one afternoon last week. Doreen and I thought we'd fish from about 3-5pm and keep a dozen or maybe 15.....no problem. A cooler, cloudier day with a nice breeze. And after about an hour, she says....."good thing you're not guiding anymore.....cuz I wouldn't pay ya' for a couple small perch!" Ouch!

Well, we tried everything. Every color, every depth, every bait. The final count? Four decent bluegills, three small perch, and one whopper white bass. So we did end up with a fish fry.....homemade cole slaw and sweet corn, and a couple beers. Perseverance and a bit of luck saved the day. But it made me realize, one more time, that fish move, seasons change, the weather seldom is perfect, and we must adapt. Tough thing to do as we get older. I think this old dog could learn a few new tricks once in a while.....IF he was willing!

So speaking of seasons changing.....here we go. Shorter days, a few leaves falling, football on TV.....and the garden's a mess! Lots of tomatoes still to be had but things are on the downslide. Tomorrow is September. Almost my favorite month (October). I sort of feel like out summer meetings are kind of like being out of school.....but now it's time to go back. Of course our Sept. 14 meeting is back indoors at the VFW. Let's all try to make it there so we can re-connect and start helping keep our club on track.....and as much fun as we can.

Our speaker for the Sept meeting is our old friend Wally Banfi. He and I have been friends now for about 25 years.....and we have learned a lot about fishin' from each other. Wally has taken his skills to the next level because he takes care of details.....and that means plenty of hard work. No shortcuts! The best way is not usually the easiest way.....but it does put more and bigger fish in the boat! Don't miss his seminar. Be sure to be there and bring a fishin' buddy along! Thanks to Tom Wilke for setting up our guest speakers every month.

But just before our next meeting, on Friday Sept. 10 we have our big fall fish fry at St. Paul's church. Details have been sent to all members and also in this newsletter. Sell some tickets and come and help out. We raise money for the club just by showing up and eating a lot. Nothin' could be easier. A big thank you to St. Paul's and Thrivent Financial for all they do for our club and the Madison community.

September also brings a couple great outings that Tom Klein has set up. Big sturgeon up on the St Croix River near Hudson and salmon out of Port Washington. Several members are signed up for these now.....check newsletter for more info.....act fast as these may be full.

So, here comes fall.....more club activities, meetings, guest speakers, fishing reports and fun. Once again.....please help out by attending meetings.....and the fish fry. Any new ideas, concerns, or to report your favorite honey hole (I promise I can keep a secret), I'm still at 220-8934... ..even in the boat. See you all at the fish fry.

Charlie



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Salmon and Sturgeon outings

Hi Guys and Gals

I would like to finalize the rosters for Salmon and Sturgeon outings.

The Salmon charter will be on Sept. 12, Sunday in the afternoon for 5 hours w/ Capt John out of Port Washington, www.iversonsportfishing.com. We don't need an overnight unless individuals want to. John has a special rate at the Holiday Inn right on the water of \$99.00/night + tax, standard room, double occupancy. The cost per charter boat is \$475.00. John is very easy to work with, is a club member, and donates a trip every year to the Fishing Expo.

The Sturgeon outing will be the weekend of Sept 24, 25, 26, probably driving up on Friday, returning on Sunday pm. Some folks have already booked at the Quality Inn in Hudson, I will see if we can get a group rate - Jesse T may have some pull on this. I stayed there last year - they have a very decent complimentary breakfast and were very accommodating starting breakfast early so we could get out fishing. Also the adjacent lot is empty and a great spot to park rigs. Here is who has committed to date.

Salmon Charter roster

Don H. donhammes@charter.net
Jesse T. jessetougas@yahoo.com
Rodger S reggie001@att.net
Duffy (maybe) ljkopf@tds.net
Alan V alanva1458@peoplepc.com
Tom K tom_klein@dishmail.net

Sturgeon Roster

Dan dancorfman@yahoo.com
Jesse T jessetougas@yahoo.com
Rodger S reggie001@att.net
Paul N nichols121@hotmail.com
Duffy (maybe) ljkopf@tds.net
Tom K tom_klein@dishmail.net

At the last meeting, it seemed there were other persons interested in either above. If you wish to join us, please confirm so I can make arrangements - there is no limit on the number of persons. Your prompt response would be appreciated preferably via email to me or my cell, 225-4968

More info will follow on tackle, etc..
Thanks, Tom K

Club decals

Are \$3 each, a great way to promote our club.

See Tom Wilke.



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Hi everyone,

Please consider attending this great dinner. St. Paul Lutheran Church has been a MAJOR sponsor of our Club events and has donated thousands of dollars to our club charities. Please help support them so that they can continue to support us and our local food pantries. Ideally try to get your friends, neighbors or family to come. Please also try to pre-pay if possible or make sure that if you say that you're coming that you do. We don't want to have unused tickets that could have been sold to someone else.

Thank you for your support & please try to get this message out!

Sincerely,

The Yahara Board of Directors

Club Fund Raiser and Fish Fry

The Fall season is almost upon us and that means it time to enjoy a night out for a fish fry. On Friday, September 10 the Yahara Fishing Club is sponsoring a fish and chicken dinner. All the money raised goes to the club to support our summer and winter "kids fishing day" events. This fund raiser could not be easier. For only \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under age 10 years, you can dine on a fish and chicken dinner with all the trimmings and the price includes dessert and beverage. The fish fry will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2126 N. Sherman Avenue. Since seating is limited, tickets for this event should be purchased in advance from Jack Hurst (249-4720). You can also reserve a spot by sending a check to the club's post office box: Yahara Fishing Club, P.O. Box 3271, Madison, WI 53704 or to Brad Czebotar at 5211 Cook Street, McFarland, WI 53558. Brad can be reached at 838-9458. There will be three serving times, 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, or 6:30 pm. Please indicate your preference for seating time with your check. Friday night fish fry, Saturday Badger football, Sunday Packer football, Fall is indeed here!

VHS test results in; fish disease has not spread inland (WDNR)

Weekly News Article Published: August 10, 2010 by the Central Office

MADISON – The potentially deadly VHS fish virus did not spread to any inland Wisconsin waters that were tested for the virus in 2010, according to state fisheries officials. None of the fish that Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist collected from nearly 70 lakes and rivers this spring tested positive for viral hemorrhagic septicemia.

"We're pleased that VHS hasn't spread inland and we appreciate the efforts that anglers and boaters have made to keep Wisconsin's fish healthy," says Mike Staggs, Wisconsin's fisheries director. "These results show that taking the prevention steps can contain the disease as well as help prevent the spread of other aquatic invasive species."

Earlier this year, Cornell University researchers reported finding VHS in Lake Superior fish collected in summer 2009, but no fish kills were evident in that lake in 2009 or 2010 because of VHS, and none of Wisconsin's 2010 testing suggested the virus had spread from that massive lake to inland lakes or streams.

"The good news is we assumed VHS was in Lake Superior when we developed the prevention rules in 2007, and as result, inland lakes and rivers were protected," Staggs says.

An Invitation

Yahara Fishing Club

The Yahara Fishing Club is invited to send up to two delegates to participate in the CRANES Assembly on Sunday September 26, 2010 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Middleton Fire Hall #1, 7600 University Ave. Middleton. We appreciate your past interest in the Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability (CRANES).

At the Assembly your delegation will help launch the new organizational partnership. Together we'll adopt a governance structure and elect a new Board of Directors. After a break for refreshments, we'll set policy initiatives for the coming 15 months and begin work on those, including a high-priority campaign for October through December.

1. Please respond soon to this email with an indication that your organization will be able to participate in the Assembly.
2. Then your organization will receive a ballot and pre-meeting materials prior to the Assembly (about Sept. 17th).

Since March the CRANES Interim Steering Group has been working closely with ten conservation groups that joined CRANES as Charter Partners. While each of our organizations is doing good work, we truly believe that a CRANES partnership can be greater than the sum of its partners. We are eager to go forward with you, achieving all that can be gained only by working together.

Thank you for all you do for the environment.

Best regards,

Co-chairs of the Assembly Planning Committee

Jon Becker, Interim Treasurer and co-founder of the CRANES Interim Steering Group

Caryl Terrell, Interim Secretary and co-founder of the CRANES Interim Steering Group

CRANES ISG Secretary
608-833-8828

This group has published a "Call to Action" on their website that describes their overall intentions. See http://www.cranesinc.org/Documents-FEB-2010/CRANES-A%20Call%20to%20New_50BCA9.pdf#50BCA9.pdf
Editor

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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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.

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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, September 14th**, 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 : Wally Banfi.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September Events

September 10th - Fish and chicken dinner at St. Paul Lutheran Church. See note on page 6.

September 12h - Salmon outing - see page 5.

September 14h - Monthly club meeting at the VFW hall. Speaker is Wally Banfi. See page 3.

September 24, 25, 26 - Sturgeon outing - see page 5.

October Events

October 12th - Monthly club meeting at the VFW hall.

October 24th - Packers vs. Vikings, 7:20 pm, Lambeau Field

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

President - Charlie Grimm ...249-9694	Director - Tom Wilke834-9554	Director - Roger Swenson 752-6825
Vice Pres. - Paul Murunich ...219-4449	Director - Jeff Wydeven .848-4542	Director - Jim Kloth635-0116
Secretary - Paul Nichols 309-335-6815	Director - Jim Pankratz ...288-9789	Director - Karlette Schoen 242-8803
Treasurer - Brad Czebotar ...838-9458	Director - Tom Klein 225-4968	

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



Yahara Fishing Club
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