



April 2008

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Get your Gear Ready!

I saw Lee Tauchen at the Madison Fishing Expo and mentioned that I noticed he was the speaker at the YFC March meeting. He told me his first professional presentation was to the YFC and it was on smallmouth bass fishing. I know I've heard Lee speak at least three or four times so I told him I would check my notes to see how his story changed over the years. For those who don't know Lee, he has been guiding on the Madison Chain for 14 years, he makes Lee's (musky) lures, and is a big contributor to Esoc Magazine. Presently he guides much of March and April on the Wisconsin River for walleyes, guides on the Madison Chain for multi-species until the end of June, and then heads for Mille Lacs in Minnesota to guide for muskies until freeze-up. His past presentations were on techniques for finding and catching fish, mainly muskies. This presentation was on how to prepare and maintain your gear to be ready for the "big one".

Lee hates dirty, slimy rods. His first hint was to clean off the cork handles with 150 grit sand paper. Personally, I never caught enough fish to get my rod handles all slimy. Although he didn't mention it, you should also check the rod guides to see that they aren't nicked or cracked. Take a Q-tip and run it around the inside of the guide. Make sure none of the cotton



gets snagged. Some super lines can easily groove rod guides.

Next Lee serviced one of his casting reels. A few hints here: first use a white paper plate under the reel. It catches any small and loose parts that may fall out. Second, when disassembling the reel, lay the parts out in the order you take them out, so you can logically replace them. Finding extra parts once you put the reel together is not good. Third, buy some Quantum Hot Sauce reel oil and reel grease and know which parts to oil and which parts to grease. Mainly, you oil all parts except you grease the main gear. A little oil and a little grease goes a long way, use it sparingly. Lee services his reels about four times a year, but they are used every day. I had a watch battery replaced and picked up a

Notes by Stan Nichols

good hint for replacing small screws from the lady replacing the battery. Take a piece of Scotch tape and place it on the screw head. It gives you something to hang onto when placing the screw in the hole. You can turn the screw right through the tape to get it started, and then take it off (she only lost one screw). Another thing Lee mentioned just briefly was that you need some kind of backing on the spool arbor when using super line. Masking tape or monofilament line works. Backing prevents super line from spinning on the arbor and helps prevent it from digging into itself.

Lee demonstrated how to repair ripped plastic lures, especially the expensive ones like Bulldogs. Basically, the ripped-off tails can be welded back on using a Bic lighter. First heat both ends of the tear and push them together. Hold them until they stick together. Then lay the tails on a flat surface and heat each side until the plastic starts running into the groove. You may want to practice on some cheap plastic tails. If a Bulldog tail gets ripped off, keep your eyes open because they will float and you might be able to retrieve it.

Hook sharpening was next on Lee's agenda. Get a good hook file. Sharpen the insides of the hook in a triangular fashion and the outside in a rotational fashion. Use long strokes. The hook should be sharp

Continued next page

Lee Taucher, continued

enough to stick to your fingernail. When fishing Bulldogs in rocky cover, Lee may sharpen a hook after every half-dozen casts. Lee keeps a supply of sharpened hooks in his boat. If he damages a hook or has to cut one to release a musky, he can easily replace the hook with little lost time. A Nipex hook cutter and Shimano split ring pliers are handy for dealing with hooks.

The last item Lee covered was leaders. He makes his own leaders using 130 lb test fluorocarbon. He places a ball bearing swivel on one end and a Stringease Stalock snap swivel on the other. I won't try to describe the knot he uses to tie them. His leaders are 14 to 16 inches long. The only commercial leader he trusts is a Stealth leader. The only time he varies from this combination is when he is trolling, especially in rocky areas. Then he uses a 48-inch, 90 lb test, Sevenstrand wire leader. He usually attaches the leaders to 80 to 100 lb. test Tuff-Line for his regular line.

There, your gear is set. Now all you have to do is find the fish and make them bite. If you want an on the water lesson, contact Lee for a guide trip.

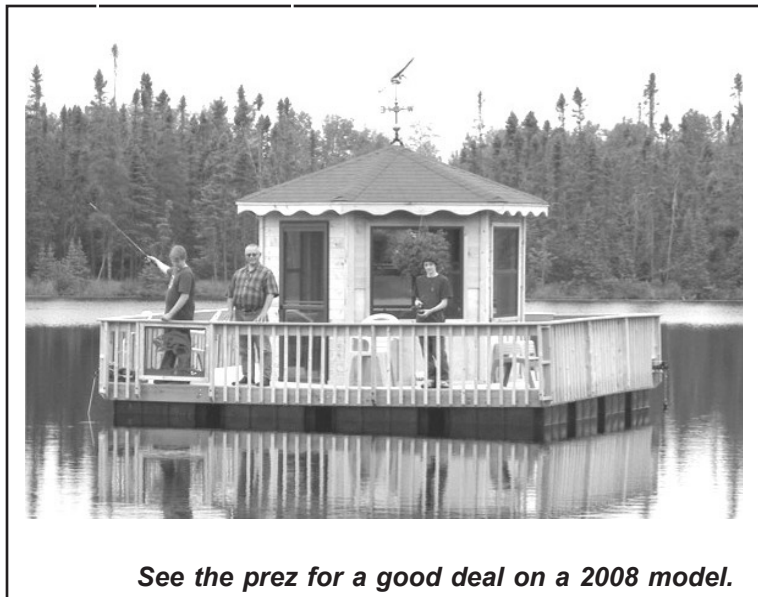
I want to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and visits during my heart surgery. It was much appreciated.

Jack Hurst



Fishing Has No Boundaries - 2008

Marv Kortney says that this year the event will be headed by Dan Hartwig, 608-846-4098. Volunteers will be needed to take people out on pontoon boats and many other tasks. There will be more information on this in future issues.



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Will Roughfish Removal Mean Better Water and Fishing for Lake Wingra?

During second week of March, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources began removing carp and roughfish from Lake Wingra as part of an ongoing research project on the 345 acre Lake Wingra. This is part of an on-going project that began in 2005 with the DNR, Friends of Lake Wingra, Edgewood College, UW-Madison, the Madison Fishing Expo, the city of Madison, and Dane County as partners in the project and research.

Back in 2005, researchers closed off a portion of Lake Wingra and removed carp and other roughfish from that location. The end result was improved water quality in that part of the lake where the carp were removed. According to Kurt Welke, DNR fisheries manager for Dane County, "Carp are the cog that drives the wheel of turbidity."

Carp and other roughfish are the bottom-feeding fish that stir up sediment from the lake's bottom which helps release nutrients into the warmer water near the lakes surface. This "stirring" makes the lakes water turbid, cloudy, and more susceptible to algae blooms in warmer weather of summer. The cloudy water also prevents much of the sun's penetration which in turn prevents the growth and development of native and desired plants.

The project groups had contracted Steve Kallenbach, a commercial fisherman from the LaCrosse area, and his crew to handle the carp removal by running large nets under the ice with the help of a remote controlled submersible device and ropes. The nets were over 3,000 feet long and in two sections which were set in

Story and Photos By Gary Engberg



the lake by the remote "submarine" and then winched out of large holes that were cut by chainsaws in the thick ice. The nets were pulled and winched in by two separate lines attached to the nets and the fish were captured in the nets which were like a big "sock" with a rope at each end. After pulling in the nets which were attached to the two separate lines or ropes, the fish were caught in the middle of the two lines and nets and contained there. The nets were then stacked on the ice as they were pulled from the waters of Lake Wingra by the commercial fishermen.

Next, researchers will examine the data from the seining and the other research projects to determine if the water quality and game fish populations were improved by removing the abundant roughfish. The most common gamefish in Lake Wingra is muskies and there also is a declining largemouth bass population which failed to show up in the netting that I witnessed because they were most likely in shallower water. The real surprise in the netting was the number of good size walleyes that are present in the lake. Walleyes were put in the lake about 10 years ago to see how they would do in a metro lake with relatively shallow water. Most of the walleyes were in the 23 to 26 inch range and looked very healthy. But, all the walleyes were basically the same size, so

Continued next page

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Lake Wingra, continued



there is little if any natural reproduction. I don't know of any anglers catching walleyes in Lake Wingra or if they are, then it's a big secret! But, they are there and all healthy and of good size. The netting produced no other gamefish besides the muskies which appeared to be healthy though a little thin. There is a panfish population in Wingra of mainly very small bluegills, a few large crappies, and small perch. Muskies have most likely decimated most of the smaller size fish. The other roughfish species netted and removed besides the carp included buffalo, gar, and sheepshead.

The big question according to Fish Manager Welke is "Can a mechanical control be a useful tool on this demographic?" The carp are examined by technicians and biologists for their age. The aging method is the same as that which biologists use when aging sturgeon; they examine an ear bone or otolith. Welke says that the otolith is "the fingerprint of age" for fish.

The researchers will now gather information from this year's research and combine it with information and data from previous research, fin clipping, and radio tagging done in 2005 and 2006. The radio tagged fish were mainly used to see the numerous locations that the carp were in and where they moved during the year and throughout the winter months. This information should help researchers determine the number of new and old fish in the lake, how fast the fish population is growing, and finally how fast the fish are dying. "If the carp are the driver of turbidity, how big is that driver?" Kurt Welke said.



The captured roughfish were shipped to the east coast where there is a market for the fish which are smoked and sold to consumers. Kallenbach, the commercial fisherman, said that he expected to remove 30,000 to 40,000 thousand pounds of roughfish from Lake Wingra. Carp bring about 15 cents a pound live weight and buffalo bring about 60 cents a pound. There are 7 or 8 carp for every buffalo fish in Lake Wingra. All fish except the carp and buffalos were returned to the lake. The commercial fishers are moving to Fox Lake, Beaver Dam Lake, Big Green Lake, and others before the ice melts and the lakes open up.

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BADGER TURFVENT

Notes From the Prez

I don't mean to start this column off negatively, but I really dislike March. I love the ice fishing etc., but March is a "tweener" month. Not usually cold enough to ice fish, yet not open water season. The north side of my garage has a cement slab where I store my boat for the winter. Yesterday I finally got my boat out from the side of the garage. I put it into the garage for a few days so I could work on it a little. I put the batteries back in and did all the minor things I needed to do to get it water ready.

Once that was completed, I had to figure out a way to get the 6 solid inches of ice out of the way. I took me about three hours and it was finished. The ice chopper didn't even dent that ice. The best way? A hammer and large slot head screwdriver did the trick. Those ice chunks are still sitting on the grass trying to thaw out. I sure feel better now!

Bradd Simms from the DNR will be our April speaker on catfish. I'm anxious to hear this one. Catfish is my favorite eating fish.

Eric Olson will be doing a June bass outing, possibly on Mendota. Clay Russell has volunteered to conduct a spoonplugging outing in July on Mendota. Larry Mothershead will be running an outing in October on Mendota. Charlie Grimm will be running our August "On the Water" meeting. I want to thank these people for their willingness to help our club to meet our yearly goals. We still need people

to lead the June and July "On the Water" meetings. Let me know if you will help out with this. Anyone else who wants to lead and outing, please let me know. There is no limit to the number or type of outings we can have. These are always fun and I have never been skunked at one of these.

The Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo is May 15-16 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds just off highway 33 just a little east of Beaver Dam. The Expo runs from 8-3 both days and any time you can volunteer is greatly appreciated. If you do this, I guarantee you will enjoy yourself. If you are interested, you can contact me or you can go to the Expo website at: www.wisexpo.com/Volunteerinformation.htm. If you want to email, contact Heidi at: heidihubble@tds.net. They will be conducting camps in fishing, firearms, dog training, archer, Heritage and Wild Life. If you want to pass your love for the outdoors on to the next generation, this is the perfect venue.

I big GET WELL goes out to Jack Hurst who had some plumbing work done on his circulatory system. Jack is a rare individual and we want him around until white bass become extinct.

A date to mark on your calendar. April 14th is the day for the Conservation Congress meeting at the Alliant Expo Center. This is usually an interesting evening. Sometimes there are some pretty emotional subjects that come up.

Once and a while there are a few individuals who feel strongly about their beliefs, but end up expressing them in a very classless manner. Please don't put yourself in this category. Speak up for what you believe in, but do it with some class.

Phil Emmling will have a short presentation at the next meeting and he has a little present for everyone at the meeting.

Other dates for you to mark on your calendar. June 7th is our annual Kids Fishing Day. This is one of our main events for the year and all YFC members are expected to help with this. Last year's crew started between 6:30-7:00am and had everything ready to go at 9:00am. The big job is getting all of the rod/reel combos ready with hooks, split shot and a bobber. There are plenty of other jobs that also need to be completed early that morning. Once we start, then our job consists of helping people with the fishing experience. Come with a smile on your face. The other date is July 12-13 for Fishing Has No Boundaries. Without our club, I don't know if this event would run very smoothly. Many of us are guides and volunteer the use of our boats for a day or two. We also put on the fish fry on Saturday evening. What a great event. What ever help you can supply, it will help the cause.

Continued next page

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This is about enough time for me to spend looking at the computer screen. I am starting to rock back and forth waiting to get the boat on the water. Maybe next Saturday up on Lake Wisconsin. Maybe I will see out there.

Fishing Season Never Closes,

Duffy Kopf – Prez
849-7245
ljkopf@tds.net

Fishtalk

The last few weeks I've been fishing the Prairie Du Sac dam. Best fishing in years. Most Saugers are legal size {3 fish limit over 15"}. But Walleyes need to be 18" {most are 17's}

Best presentation has been dragging a jig /minnow very slooooooooooo.

Good luck,
Kevin Tvedten

Zebra Mussels

FYI, remember to clean those livewells this spring when your up on Lake Wisconsin and the Sauk Dam, they have confirmed zebra mussels in the lake.

Eric Olson

Zebra Mussels Confirmed in Lake Wisconsin

SAUK CITY, Wis – Zebra mussels have been found in Lake Wisconsin, leading the state to place the 9,000 acre water body in Columbia and Sauk Counties on its list of waters infested with the invasive mollusk.

"The zebra mussels found recently by Alliant Energy at the Prairie du Sac Dam and by local citizen monitors indicate there is an established, reproducing population in Lake Wisconsin," noted Susan Graham, lakes management coordinator for DNR's South Central Region at Fitchburg.

"Mussels ranging from very tiny adults to larger adults (over an inch long) were found attached to the Prairie du Sac Dam turbines and samplers placed up-lake," she pointed out.

The non-native mollusks – invertebrate animals lacking a spine – can take a toll on the environment, recreation and economy.

Placing Lake Wisconsin on the "Infested List" means DNR will post 'Exotic Species Advisory' signs with zebra mussel decals at all boat landings to notify the public that the lake harbors the species.

The advisory signs outline important steps that need to be taken to prevent transfer of zebra mussels to other waters. Watercraft inspectors will visit landings during the boating season to alert boaters that Lake Wisconsin is infested and to educate them on how to avoid spreading the exotic mussel to other waters.

The DNR will work with local groups such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Columbia and Sauk County lakes and rivers groups, as well as local governments and state parks, to increase public awareness and outreach efforts to control the further spread of zebra mussels, noted Graham.

Agency staff will continue to monitor Lake Wisconsin for zebra mussel adults using plate samplers and look for microscopic zebra mussel larvae (called veligers) employing small mesh nets.

"Transfer of zebra mussels to nearby Devil's Lake, Mirror Lake or Crystal Lake could harm the local fishery and impact other recreational activities such as swimming and boating on these popular lakes," said DNR fisheries biologist Tim Larson, Poynette.

Zebra mussels form dense clusters that attach to hard surfaces. They can decimate native mussel populations and decrease the oxygen that fish and other aquatic species need. Also, zebra mussels can clog boat engines as well as intake pipes used by utilities and industrial facilities. Their sharp shells can cut the feet of beach walkers.


Action you can take:

Inspect and remove plants, animals and mud from your boat, trailer and equipment.

Drain all water from your boat's live wells, bilge, motor, etc.

Dispose of unused bait in the trash, not in the water.

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APRIL

- 04/03 Terry Frey Spring River Walleyes
- 04/10 Wally Banfi Mombo Crappies
- 04/17 Bill Spahn WI River Smallmouth
- 04/24 John Lusk Monster Mendota Catfish

MAY

- 05/01 Ron Barefield Opening Weekend
- 05/08 Mike Pecosky Spring & Summer Muskies
- 05/15 Travis Richardson Cranking Lake Mendota
- 05/22 Joe Okada Walleye Trolling Tricks
- 05/29 Dave Berg Summer Panfish

These seminars are right here at the store, 1411 Northport Dr., Madison, on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, and are FREE to the public!!! If you have any questions, feel free to call us at (608)241-4225.

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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, April 13th**, 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: Bradd Sims

April Events

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- April 8th Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, Lakeside VFW Hall
Speaker: Bradd Sims from the DNR - Catfish movement and fishing.
- April 10th D&S Bait, Walli Banfi, Mombo Crappies (See page 7)
- April 14th Conservation Congress meeting at the Alliant Expo Center.
- April 17th D&S Bait, Bill Spahn, Wi River Smallmouths
- April 24th D&S Bait, John Lusk, Monster Mendota Catfish

May Events

- May 13th Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, Lakeside VFW Hall
Speaker: To be announced
- May 15-16 The Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo
Dodge County Fairgrounds

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

President - Larry Kopf.....849-7245	Director - Rick Lane873-5228	Director - Jayne Meyer.....662-9374
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Check out our web page at:
www.yaharafishingclub.org



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