



April 2015

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

Long-lining Madison Area Waters

By Stan Nichols

At the March meeting Mike Pecosky talked about fishing the Madison Lakes. Mike is a former YFC member and for the last eight years is a full time guide and professional musky angler. Mike's guiding business is "Best Bite Fishing"

Mikes uses any technique required to catch fish but one of his favorite tactics for finding fish is long-line trolling. For this he does not use planer boards but does use long (10 foot plus) rods to keep his lines spread. For most of his trolling he uses six-pound superline that has a one-pound diameter. For game fish he adds a 15-pound Suffix fluorocarbon leader (not fluorocarbon line) material leader. For panfish a lighter leader is sufficient. His rods are very flexible.

River fishing for spring walleyes and sauger Mike likes using a # 5 Shad Rap trolled slowing upstream. Male fish are usually found in four-to-five feet of water and he wants the Shad Rap ticking the bottom. Female fish are usually found in deeper water. If the lure gets snagged just drift back downstream to free it.

Mike also trolls for panfish in the summer. There will be pods of panfish all over the lakes; especially Lake Monona after the weedline bite dies in mid-summer. These fish are suspended five-to-20 feet deep, but the majority are about 14 feet down. Trolling speed is slow-1.5 M.P.H. An ultralite Rapala or other mini-crankbait is the lures to use. It is very important that these mini-crankbaits are tuned to run "true" or they won't catch fish.

Crappies will usually be found under schools of bluegills.

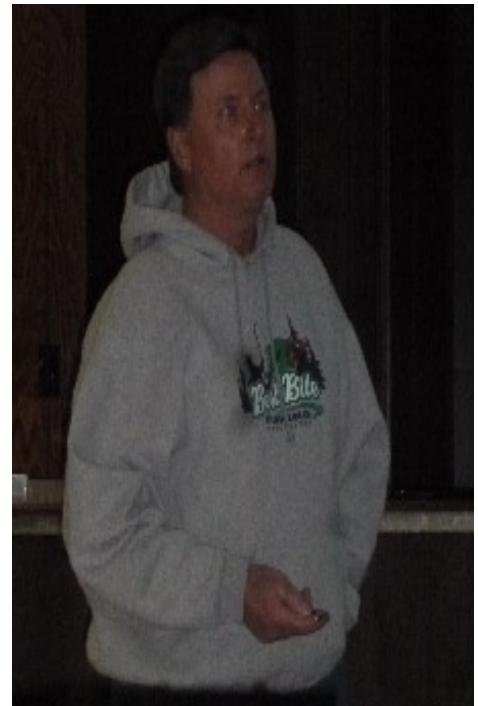
For summertime game fish Mike wants to fish the whole water column. This is where it is especially important to know the "dive curves" for the lure you are using to be able to present the lure at the proper depth. Weed edges, rocks,

and rock humps are good places to look for game fish. Once weeds reach the top of the water, trolling in them gets tough and you may want to switch over to casting.

I had the feeling that Mike really likes trolling in the fall-when the weather is brutal and other anglers are few. The water in lakes like Waubesa clear in the fall and weeds start to grow again-a good place to look for fish. A hint for Lake Wingra- a white spinnerbait trolled in the fall can be deadly for muskies. Spinnerbaits can also be trolled through the weeds.

If none of this works for you, try an old stand bye- an orange jig with a half nightcrawler.

Mike



YFC Outings

April: Lake Michigan Bender Park Coho and brown trout

This outing will also be weather dependent and especially with wind and waves dictating what days are possible. We currently have a group of members going on 4/11 and 4/25. We will fish with medium tackle casting for these great fish out in front of the Oak Creek power plant. Trolling will also be an option. This will be a early morning trip.

April: Peshtigo River walleye run April 18-19

The current water levels are extremely low making this trip questionable at this time. Wading is possible and with enough rain the river may become fishable. An alternate trip is looking to be the Menomonee River instead with our Rock Valley Angler friends going there if the Peshtigo is unfishable. There is still time to sign-up.

May: Big Bay de Noc smallies 5/15-17, 5/22-25, 5/29/31

You won't want to miss this great opportunity to catch tons of big smallies. This dual club outing last year caught more than 1000 fish. This year we plan on hunting some walleyes also in the early morning and possible evenings. There is very limited space for accommodations in Nahma, Michigan on this outing and have several members going over these two weeks. During the week is wide open for availability.

June/July/August

I'm in the process of setting up charter outings for salmon on Lake Michigan and also a Lake Erie outing. If you are interested in going please let me know. I will get possible dates out soon. The outings will be through Iverson Sport fishing & Captain Hook Fishing Charters Eagle Lake Canada July 18-25

We have a few club members going on this great Canadian adventure during this time but we have 3 resorts to choose from and you can go ANY time during the summer or fall. Contact me or pick up a brochure at our club meeting. Very affordable trips but they are filling up fast so don't wait!

All outings mentioned above are open to all club members and families. If you don't have a boat we will do everything we can to get you in one with another club member.

Jim Pankratz Contact me at jimannepan@aol.com or 608-709-6442

Raffle Tickets

Make sure to bring all of your sold & unsold raffle tickets along with any money to our meeting April 14. Please be on time for the meeting as we will be drawing the raffle during the meeting. You are responsible for all of the tickets that you checked out and if you are unable to bring them to the meeting you MUST contact me to make arrangements to get them to me ahead of time.

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Depere Fox River Walleye Outing Lessons Learned

The Fox River walleye run in Depere is famous. Each spring tons of walleyes migrate down from the bay of Green Bay into the river to spawn only to be stopped by the dam. As soon as the ice breaks free from the boat landings hundreds of anglers head out in pursuit of these fish with a really chance of a 20-100+ fish day and a legitimate shot at catching a 30" fish. Last year was my first experience on the Fox and I was lucky enough to go with Dave McCoy from our club who has done this many times before. I could only go for a day but we boated 36 fish in a miserable cold rain with every fish around 20" or more. The weekend prior, Dave and others on his boat caught 300 walleyes! This year I was more than excited about going again and planned a club outing for it. As life goes my kids were in a play the first open weekend to fish so I stayed home but planned going the next for the whole weekend with my sight set on a high 20 or 30 inch fish! As we got closer to the day the forecast looked cold but sunny on Saturday and 30+ mph winds with rain and snow on Sunday. We decided to just fish Saturday and club members Larry Mothershead and Ken Terrill joined me. The day started out at 18 degrees with water temps at 37. We headed to the shallows looking for warmer water the first few hours but couldn't get anything to bite although we may have had a few light hits. We then headed to the main channel about 20 feet deep and started jigging and ran into Dave whose boat already caught 15 eyes. He told us that they were using a slow pulling technique I remember reading about in In-fisherman magazine so we switched and Ken immediately caught two nice fish. We thought we were dialed in now but struggled to catch more. We moved further down the river and tried again and then back into the shallows with warmer water but no luck. At this point we ran into Dave and he explained in more detail the technique and that they were over 30 walleyes for the day. We were frustrated but realized that we didn't have enough line out behind the boat and that we also probably had too heavy of jigs on. We decided on one more pass of slow trolling and then call it quits to get off the water to try and catch the Badger vs Arizona game. We went a little ways and finally I caught a fish, a nice 22" eye. Just as we were about to leave Larry caught one too and we all at least caught a fish. On our way over to say goodbye to Dave and his crew he had a nice fish on that turned out to be a 27", 8.5 lb walleye. Feeling humbled by the day we loaded my boat on my trailer only to find I had a flat tire.

So looking back on the day to say it was frustrating would be an understatement. I did have fun though and it was great to get out on the water for the first time and get to know a few club members and hey

the Badgers beat Arizona to make it to the Final 4! But I want to be a better fisherman and I wanted our boat to catch 42 fish just like Dave's boat did that day and have one of us catch a 27" fish too. So the first lesson learned was that you should take a look at your trailer tires every time you go out and if they look a little low like mine did take the time to fill them up or at least check the pressure and you can save yourself a flat tire even if you're in a rush to leave like I was. The second lesson was if you're not catching fish with a specific technique or spot then try something else. My logic to go to the shallows to find warmer water was good but it would have been better later in the day when the water had a chance to warm up. This was compounded by spending too much time there. We were fishing in 4-5 feet of water which made it impossible to know if the fish were there with our locator but the fact that we didn't catch anything meant we should have moved on because they weren't there or change our technique which we didn't do soon enough. The third lesson is that technique does make a difference. We had the exact same bait on as Dave's boat but we were obviously not as well practiced and the details do make a difference. The last lesson was simply to use suntan lotion. It was 18 degrees to start our day with a high of 39, we were dressed like polar bears but my face still got fried. In summary it's great to go out fishing any time but the difference between a fun trip and a great trip typically are going to be how prepared you are ahead of time, being able to adapt to conditions on the water, and having a couple of extra techniques in your toolbox to try when you need to.

Jim Pankratz

PS: I'm sitting in Neenah at my mother-in-law's getting ready to watch the Badger game against Kentucky after fishing the Fox again this morning. A week later and a really tough bite with me seeing only 2 fish caught in 5 hours. After getting off the river I talked to Swamp Donkey baits and his report has been that the Fox hasn't lived up to its reputation this year which is mainly due to no current coming out of the dam. Fishing was good the first weekend and in a few spurts since but not the number of fish coming in that a higher current would draw. I feel a little better and will definitely be better prepared for next year! OH and I did catch my 30+ incher today though....too bad it was a giant carp!

Conservation Congress Hearings

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is the only statutory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to advise the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources on how to responsibly manage Wisconsin's natural resources for present and future generations. The Congress accomplishes this through open, impartial, broad-ranged actions.

On Monday, April 13, 2015, there will be 72 public hearings, one in each county starting at 7:00 p.m. where individuals interested in natural resources management have an opportunity to provide their input by non-binding vote and testimony on proposed rule changes and advisory questions relating to fish and wildlife management in Wisconsin. County residents have the option to run for a seat on the Conservation Congress, or elect other delegates from their county to represent their county views regarding natural resources on the Conservation Congress.

For Dane County the meeting will be at Sun Prairie High School, Performing Arts Center, 888 Grove Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590 on Monday, April 13, 2015, 7:00 p.m

The ballot you will be handed to vote on can be seen at http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/spring_hearing/2015/2015SpringQuestionnaire.pdf.

Several YFC members have mentioned this hearing, either at club meetings or on the Yahoo forum. Our club members are concerned because people elected to a seat on the board or as a delegate at these meetings may not represent the interests of our club.

As an example of what has our club members concerned, a year or two ago there were proposals or policy changes to allow dogs to hunt bears, or to allow hunting and trapping in state parks. Opponents of those changes successfully garnered enough support at these hearings to get elected to the Conservation Congress. These board members, who may not fish or hunt, want to gain control of the Conservation Congress in order to pursue their agenda. In the past there have been people elected who were aligned with groups like PETA, and they campaigned to substantially change hunting laws.

My experience at the hearings is that everyone is treated respectfully, but it is up to us to decide which candidates we want to represent our views to the Natural Resources Board or WDNR. As you can see from the questionnaire referenced above, there is a lot going on. I encourage everyone to get informed on the issues, to listen to the candidates express their concerns, and to vote Monday April 13th.

Tom Raschke, editor



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The Madison YFC won this competition with the Rock Valley Anglers this year. See <http://www.yaharafishingclub.org/yfciconRVA.htm>

Notes from the Prez



Gard is on vacation.



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Thanks from Jim Kusuda

I just wanted to give a big thank you to the people who helped last Thursday with the Hamilton Middle School Fishing Club ice outing at Brittingham Park. It is hard for me to believe that just five days ago it was really colder than I would have preferred (14 degree highs), but the teacher, Bob Wiedholz had a bus reserved after rescheduling four times due to cold, windy conditions. Fishing Instructors: Kevin Tvedten, Mike Mohr, Charlie Grimm, Richard Bee, Paul Zoch, Pat Klingelhoets, Bruce Mikula, Jon White, Jeff Winer, Dave Price, Brian Moe and myself had a challenging but fun time with the sixth and seventh graders. I was impressed at how hard the kids tried, and were able to catch fish under harsh conditions. The helpers make all the difference in the world, maybe next year it will be like it is out today?

Report from the Barge People

Ok, four of us went to Clements barge on Monday March 30th. We arrived at the parking lot 6:30 am, a line had already formed to get on the boat. We were on the third boat to go over to the barge. Monday turned out to be the barge's busiest Monday ever!

Between the four of us we caught 13 perch, 3 small northerns and 3 sheep head. It was crowded and slow fishing. I saw a couple monster perch and a couple big northerns. The good news was good weather and the river was not running fast.

Colleen



D&S Bait Speaker Schedule.

We're happy to announce our lineup for the Spring 2015 Fishing Seminar series! With local experts stopping in to speak on a variety of topics, it's a can't miss for every fisherman and woman. Come on in on Thursday nights to catch some pointers. The seminars start at 7pm and are always free to the public. There's often special sales that run right after for those who want to pick up new gear or a new hobby. We'll be starting on the second week of April. The line-up is as follows:

DATE | SPEAKER | TOPIC

APRIL

04/02 | Kurt Wilke | State of Madison Lakes Fisheries

04/09 | Ron Barefield | Pre-spawn Panfish

04/16 | Rob Blosser | Lake Wisconsin Walleye

04/23 | Roy Vivian | Lake Mendota Walleye

04/30 | Austin Ragotzkie | Opening Weekend

For those of you new to this, we offer these FREE fishing clinics right here at our store, given by local area fishermen, about our local waters. We are fortunate to have many local fishermen donate their time & talent to give these seminars & to share their knowledge of our lakes. So stop by & hear what they have to say!



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Minnesota Boat Trailer Change Postponed

Intended to fight the spread of aquatic invasive species, a controversial program to require anyone transporting a boat in Minnesota to pass a test and get a special sticker for your trailer was postponed. The program was to go into effect shortly. Legislators have introduced bills to kill the law requiring the training, and DNR officials don't want boaters to take the course if that happens, or if major changes are made.

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Form
P.O. Box 3271 Madison, WI 53704

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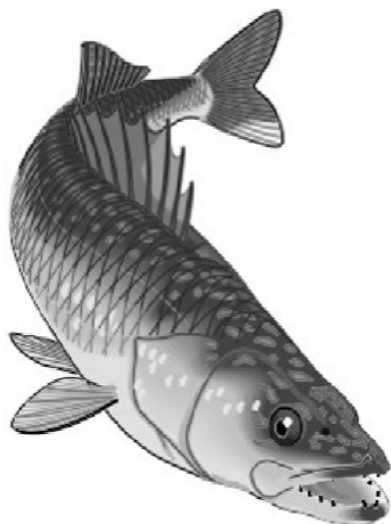
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Check out our web page at: www.yaharafishingclub.org

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 14th
The Board Of Directors meet at 6:00 pm, The General Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Speaker - Greg Fitch

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April Events

April 13th, Conservation Congress Hearing in Sun Prairie. See Page 4.

April 14th, Regular club meeting at the VFW Hall. Greg Fitch is our April speaker, he will discuss how to maintain your boat's electronics and what's new in locators and trolling motors.

May Events

May 12th, Regular club meeting at the VFW Hall. New member, Iserial Dunn is our May speaker. He will talk new concepts in shore fishing.

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

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