



April
2016

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

A year in the Life of the Madison Lakes

Notes by Stan Nichols

Do you like to fish all year long? Do you like to catch a variety of fish? Do you want to know what to catch and when on the Madison Lakes? -If so read on for Lee Tauchen's advice. Lee is in his 20th year as a guide on the Madison Chain. You may have heard him in the past talking about muskie fishing but he enjoys and guides for all local species.

Starting in the winter, ice fishing, you may want to try catching catfish on Lake Mendota. This is a relative newly discovered fishery. Lee uses an Automatic Fisherman (We used them a few years back with the group that went to Milwaukee Harbor trout fishing. I am sure there are plans on the Internet if you want to make your own). He spools up with 10 lb. monofilament line, a small treble hook with a split shot and baits with a small piece of cut bait (about one-inch square). Bluegills as well as other species work for cut bait. He doesn't use tip-ups, as the catfish tend to quickly drop baits. He fishes in 20-to-30 feet of water in North Bay between Governors Island and Governor Nelson Park. The catfish can weigh up to 20 pounds. I would have to bet a bigger ice auger to get one through the hole.

Another winter option is northern pike. Lee considers Lake Mendota the best lake in the state to catch a 40-inch plus northern pike. The pike in Lake Mendota follow the schools of perch so it is difficult to stay consistent catching them. For early ice, Lee recommends fishing the bays such as Warner Bay. Later in the season fish main lake rock points.

The winter is over and the lakes are open. Start looking for crappies in Lake Waubesa. Look for old weed beds or new weed growth in four-to-six feet of water. The best fishing is on calm, sunny days on the north or south ends of the lake. Look for areas of warmer water. Fish with a slip bobber, a small minnow and a small hook. The water is usually very clear so stealth is required. Another option is a 1/80-th ounce jig head with a white Wedgie for a tail fished under a float. A useful tip is the anchor the Wedgie (or any rubber tail) to the jig with a drop of Loctite Super-glue gel. Occasionally jiggle the float.

You might also find bluegills at this time of year. Try a 1-inch gulp minnow on a real light hook.

In May start looking for prespawn bass. The largest bass are found in Lake Mendota. Use jerk baits, Rattling Rouges, or Husky Jerks. A trick for the suspending crank-baits is to crank them down and let them pause for 15 seconds. You can also dead stick with drop shot rigs. Set

up a drop shot rig, set it in a pole holder, parallel to the water surface, and let it sit. A one-quarter ounce jig head with a four-inch curly tail attached is another option, using a straight retrieve or jig it. Lee uses 12-pound monofilament line but he uses a 20-pound titanium leader to prevent "bite-offs" from pike and muskies. Some of the crank baits are getting pricey so you don't want to lose many of them. You can YouTube Lee Tauchen leaders to see how Lee makes his leaders using Terminator Titanium wire. When we fished in Devils Lake, North Dakota we used commercial "Invisi-Leaders" for the same reason. You may want to use the same rig in the fall when shore casting for walleyes.

June, when bass go on the beds is the start of muskie fishing- around Memorial Day weekend. Lee likes water temperatures to be over 62-degrees and ideally between 68-and-76-degrees. He recommends using long rods (8.5-9.5-feet in length) and to using smaller lures than you might consider a muskie lure. Lee quits muskie fishing when water temperatures get above 80-degrees. Fish get lethargic and there is more risk releasing them safely.

In late June, when water temperatures get above 74-degrees start fishing post-spawn bass. Drop shot rigs are the answer here. They keep the bait or lure off the slime on the lake bottom. He uses eight-pound line, a number-8 octopus style hook, and a 1/8 to 1/4, cylinder style weight. The hook can be baited with one-half a night crawler, a leech, or plastic such as a Berkley three-inch Swim Shad. Again, dead stick the rig in a rod holder with the rod parallel to the water surface. He uses this rig in 11- 22-feet of water with the average depth about 15 feet. Late June is also a time to catch bluegills on red worms or one-inch gulp minnows.

The "dog days" of mid-summer are the time to catch bluegills drifting deep water in Lake Monona or catching them on deep rocks. A deep rock rig uses a four-pound main line, an eight pound dropper attached to a barrel swivel, a 1/4- ounce egg sinker above the swivel, with the leader attached to a Willie Worm, fished one and one-half cranks above the bottom. It is also a time to catch bass using a seven-inch, blue plastic worm on a Texas Rig.

In September as water temperatures cool below 70-degrees big pike start coming back into shallow bays like Warner Bay and University Bay of Lake Mendota. Cast spinner-baits for these pike.

October is a time to target big bass using big baits. This means using muskie lures.

November is muskie time again using live bait. Fishing, using artificial lures slow down when water temperature gets below 40-degrees. Fish, using an 8.5-foot walleye-trolling rod, a 1/0-3/0-octopus live bait hook and a six-to-eight-inch sucker. Hang out very close to Monona Terrace. If you hire Lee as a guide during this time of year he will guarantee you a muskie or you don't have to pay. For fishing tips look for fall muskies on YouTube. You might be fishing with your rod tip touching the Terrace. Late November and December is also time to fish for big pike using suckers.

For additional information and tips try
LeeTauchen.com and LeesLures.com



Lee at the mic

70th Birthday Yahara Fishing Club

Save the Date.....Wednesday May 18 from 5-8pm at Lussier Heritage Ctr at Lake Farm Park.....Happy 70th Birthday Yahara Fishing Club.....Happy 30th Birthday (belated) Madison Fishing Expo.....celebrating a long friendship between the 2 groups, we are having one of our famous outdoor fish fries.....after our club does most of the work on this party, the MFE will donate \$1000 to the club for our Kid's Fishing Days.....more info coming soon but plan on seeing sign-up sheets at the April meeting, both for attending and helping out.....we will need a fairly good idea of numbers for buying fish etc.....also we are hoping to have the desert items as a potluck so plan ahead. Anyone who can help pass the word (newsletter, club forum).....thank you.

Charlie Grimm

April Meeting Speaker

Our speaker for the April meeting will be Doug Porter, president of the Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters. The Yahara River starts just north of De Forest and extends all the way down to the Rock River as it passes through the Yahara Chain of Lakes. This group works to educate, coordinate, monitor, and clean up this portion of the Yahara River. They work closely with the DNR to determine fish populations in the river and they are also very involved with introducing kids to fishing. They have received grants to monitor water quality along this stretch of the river.

The water quality of our chain is greatly determined by the upper Yahara River. I hope all of you will attend this very informative presentation.

You can visit their web site at yaharariver.org.



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\$1000.00 Winner of the YFC Raffle presented his check.



Left — Jim Henning, John Pribek, (who sold him the ticket) with club president Gard Strother presenting the check. John Pribek says he is still waiting for Jim Henning to buy him a cup of coffee.

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Annual Auction

On Tuesday, April 19, the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance will hold its annual auction at the Maple Tree restaurant in McFarland. The doors will open at 5:30 for dinner, socializing and inspection of bid items and silent auction. Winners of the silent auction will be announced promptly at 6:45 followed by the live auction. There is no entrance fee and the event is open to the general public.

http://wisconsinsmallmouth.com/wordpress/?page_id=93<http://wisconsinsmallmouth.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/1603.pdf>

Rich Connor

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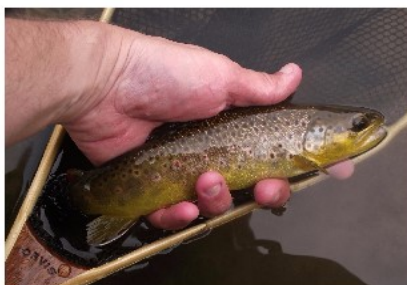
My name is Tristan Kloss and I'm the fishing manager at the Orvis store in Middleton. Each year we host free fly fishing courses to anyone interested in learning more about the sport. Each class is about two-and-a-half hours long and gives students the basics they need to start fishing with a fly rod. This year each student will also receive free memberships to Trout Unlimited, Badger Fly Fishers, and Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance.

I've attached a flier about the classes and upcoming class dates. If this is something you and your membership might be interested in, I'd love to talk more about it.

Thank you, Tristan Kloss

LEARN THE FLY-FISHING BASICS **FOR FREE** FLY FISHING 101 & 201

Orvis Madison is offering **FREE** Fly Fishing 101/201 classes again this year! We have introduced hundreds of people to the fun of fly fishing... why not join us this season?



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Class Dates

April 9, 10, 17, 23, 24, 30

May 7, 14, 21, 28

June 4, 11, 18

July 9, 23

Saturday classes are held from 10:30a-1:30p.
Sunday classes are held from 12:30p-3:30p.

Sign Up **HERE** and come fish with us this season!

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Notes From The Prez

Gard is taking a break from being our fearless leader and is fishing in Florida

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Spring 2016 Fishing Seminar Schedule

D&S Bait, 1411 Northport Dr, Madison, WI
(608) 241-4225 | www.dsbait.com | info@dsbait.com



We're happy to announce our lineup for the Spring 2016 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 first Thursday of April. The lineup is as follows:

DATE | SPEAKER | TOPIC

APRIL

04/07 | **Rick Krueger** | Madison Lakes from a Diver's View

04/14 | **Kurt Wilke, DNR** | Future of the Madison Chain

04/21 | **Wally Banfi** | Panfish Tactics

04/28 | **Austin Ragotzkie** | Walleye Patterns on the Chain

MAY

05/05 | **Travis Richardson** | Opening Weekend

Mary Regel Helps Us Again

Once more Mary has donated \$500.00 towards the Kids Fishing Days from the Rod Regal Memorial Fund. Thank You Mary!



UPCOMING YFC OUTINGS: ALWAYS OPEN TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

April/Now: Peshtigo river- walleyes are running on the Peshtigo with good fishing the next few weeks. If anyone is interested in going please contact me.

April: Green Bay- The Bay has been giving up some BIG walleyes. People are catching walleyes with trolling and jigging. Now is the time to go if you can. Just ask club member Todd Grams who caught a 32 fish of a life time. Contact me if interested.

April-May: Milwaukee Harbor- Coho & browns have been biting at the Oak Creek Power plant out of Bender Park. When the water is relatively clear the browns and lakers have been biting in the harbor. This will be highly weather dependent with winds under 10 mph and unfortunately the weather hasn't been cooperating much lately. Hopefully a few days of no major winds will allow for some good fishing. NO heavy tackle is needed for this trip as we will be fishing with medium spinning or casting gear trolling, jigging and casting. Be flexible and ready to fish as we give you an update on the possible dates. Contact me for details otherwise wait for a special email on when club members plan on going.

May: Big Bay du Noc/Nahma Michigan- this trip will be one of your favorites. Step back in time staying at a bed & breakfast inn while chasing big numbers of 15-20+ inch pre-spawn smallmouth bass. Dates are May 20-22, 27-30 or during the week around that time. The rooms are cheap, the food and bar plentiful and the chance of getting a sore arm from catching so many smallies is possible.

May-July: Green Bay- we will chase the big walleyes that the Bay of Green Bay is famous for!

July: Eagle Lake, Ontario Canada- want a chance to experience a famous Canadian shield lake fishing for walleye, northern, perch, small mouth bass, lake trout and world class muskie? Here's your chance and we have 2 great resorts for you to choose from but don't wait because they will fill up for the summer over the next few months. I will be there the week of July 23-30 but you can go any time during the summer or fall. Camping costs about \$250 per site (your whole group not individual), housekeeping packages around \$500 per person, kids 16 and under free at one resort and 12 and under free at the other, and American Plans starting around \$800 per person. All prices are for an entire week folks! Truly a trip of a lifetime and get the advice of club members who have already gone to help make your trip more memorable! Check out the links mentioned in the newsletter email. Contact me with questions.

Jim Pankratz

jimannepan@aol.com 608-709-6442



Todd Grams on Green Bay last month with the Walleye of his Life. 32 Inches.

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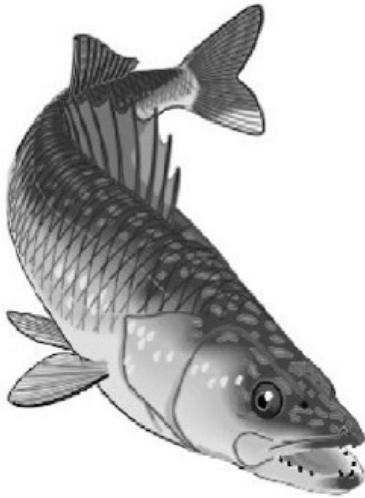
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WHAT STARTS A SPORTSMAN'S CLUB?

(An Early History of the Yahara Fisherman's Club)

Written by Keith Ackley 5-15-1978

It was a cold wind blowing in from the northwest late in April 1945 when Art Barber, who was the city lock tender, had a caller with a letter for him. He was from the city parks department and the letter said that the Cuna National Credit Corp had purchased the malt house and the property across the road from the locks. They were going to build their national headquarters on the site and the city promised them they would make a nice park for them next to the locks. The letter stated that all fishing boats along the shore was to be removed and the three old boats the lock tender had for rental must be removed...

The rest of this story is available on the group's website under Monthly Newsletters/Really Old Stuff

**The next YFC meeting is Wednesday, April 13th at the VFW Hall
301 Cottage Grove Road. Speaker Doug Porter.
The general meeting starts at 7:00.**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April Events

April 13th, Regular Club Meeting, Doug Porter, president of the Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters. See note on Page 2.

April 19, the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance will hold its annual auction at the Maple Tree restaurant in McFarland. See note page 3

May Events

May 11th, Regular Club Meeting at the VFW Hall

May 18th Happy 70th Birthday Yahara Fishing Club. See note page 2.

Board of Directors

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