



February
2012

Editor: Tom Raschke (tomraschke50@gmail.com) or 608-219-9243

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

Kids Ice Fishing Day, 2012

The club gave out about 200 ice fishing rods and reels, the weather cooperated, and most kids caught a fish. Thanks to the many club members who made the event possible.



Reminder: The club needs your good used equipment for the auction. This is an important fund raiser for club!

More pics next page

Yahara Fishing Club



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Where to Launch?

Notes By Stan Nichols

After hearing complaints about the boat launches on the Yahara Lakes at an earlier meeting, Dane County Parks personnel, Chris James, Kevin Connors, and Darren Marsh were invited to the January meeting to explain how the county boat launches are managed and financed. Major complaints include crowding, low lake levels, goose droppings, and aquatic weeds. Many members also wondered where the lake access fees actually go in the budgeting process.

Darren explained that lake access fees offset operational costs for managing the launches. Dane County is in a cooperative agreement with the Cities of Madison and Monona so that the launch fee is honored at any launch operated by these jurisdictions. The jurisdiction that sells the launch fee keeps the money. So if you buy a launch sticker in Madison, the funds go to Madison, etc.

The problem with the three speakers is that the county only operates four boat launches-Babcock, Goodland, and Lake Farm Parks on Lake Waubesa and Fish Camp on Lake Kegonsa. Many members felt these were some of the best-managed launches on the Madison Lakes. Many of the complaints were from Madison launches and some other launches are managed by other municipalities or the Department of Natural Resources (in Governor Nelson and Lake Kegonsa State Parks). The speakers weren't able to discuss how the other launches were managed or how launch fees were allocated. Overall the County doesn't take in quite enough to offset operational costs of their launches.

With the large population in Dane County, access to launches can be problematic. Chris James believes that launch use is directly related to fishing. When fishing is good, the launches are crowded. Charlie Grimm made a suggestion-retire and fish on Tuesday thru Thursday. Before I took Charlie's advice I found that a good time to launch was about 7 a.m. on a weekend morning. All the "hard-core" anglers were out already and the pleasure boaters didn't start showing up until around 11 a.m. Sundays also seemed to be less busy than Saturdays. Some of the weekend anticipation has worn off. Another thing to watch for is fishing tournaments- either local weekday tournaments or the larger weekend tournaments and avoid those lakes.

Another option is to buy a good pair of waders, a float-tube, kayak or small canoe. These open up a lot of access sites. Just ask one of your ice-fishing buddies. Most know every dead-end street, pumping station, bridge access, or municipal parks where you can get access. You can't "cruise" as far as with you 200 h.p. bass boat but you can fish more carefully and often gain access where the big boats don't or can't go.

It is probably a losing battle to teach people how to launch and retrieve their boats in a timely manner. I admit I may not be the best at backing my boat into the launch but at least when it is my turn the boat is ready to launch. The fishing gear is loaded, straps unhooked, etc. Retrieving can be worse, some people have a penchant for pulling out their boat and stopping right at the access to unload gear, wipe down their boat, hook up straps, etc. My patience usually gets a little short at that point and I've been less than polite with some telling them to get their ****boat out of the way.

Besides launch issues Chris, Kevin, and Darren mentioned some other lake related items that are of interest to the club:

The U.W. Lacrosse is doing a recreational survey of the Madison lakes. How do people use the lakes? The county is looking for volunteers to help with the survey. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the survey contact Kevin or Marsha Hartwig at Dane County.

-As part of lake management, the county is also interested in exotic species control. They plan to put tools at the boat launches to help remove aquatic plants from boating equipment.

-There are plans to repair the Babcock and Lake Kegonsa dams so there will be better water level management in the lakes and easier navigation through the dams. If you have a water level issue talk to Kevin.

Continued next page

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Launch, Continued

-Dane County is responsible for the weed-harvesting program in the lakes. If you have any complaints contact Darren.

-Providing winter access to Upper-Mud is progressing but it isn't a done deal.

-The new parks and open space plan for Dane County is nearly complete. Water access is addressed.

-Dane County can use the political support of anglers with many lake related issues coming to the forefront.

If you have any questions about Dane County water programs go the Dane County WEBSITE.

Upcoming Outings

March is still planned for Clements Barge for short notice sign up. For April, a possible outing is the Wisconsin River below the Sauk dam. A one day trip.

May is White Bass on the Fox River, May 19th.

Devils Lake, ND, June 16 - 23 is sold out as of Dec. 31st. I was able to book one additional cabin at Lakeview Lodge to accommodate the 14 persons signed up. We have one large cabin for 10 and one smaller cabin for 4. If more persons want to go, it might be possible to find accommodations at the main lodge.

That's it for now, Tom Klein

Fish info for below the Dells Dam

(To Kevin Tvedten)

The attached spread sheets show the electrofishing catch rate of walleye from six different locations on Lake Wisconsin and the Wisconsin River below the Dells Dam. The data shows the number of fish per mile of electrofishing and is an average of all six stations. The less than 10 inch fish roughly estimate the young of the year from that particular year, the 10-15 inch fish are 1+ year olds, the 15-20 inch fish are 2+-5+.

The summary averages show that statistically the average catch of 10-15" fish has gone down, the average catch of 15-20 inch fish has stayed the same and the average catch of greater than 20 inch fish has increased from 0.49 fish per mile to 1.37 fish per mile. Also if you rank the years by the catch rate of greater than 20 inch fish the top four years are all after the slot limit and the worst four years are all before the slot limit (excluding 2009 when the sample time period was moved later in the year).

You'll also see that as we discussed there was a big year class in 09. those showed up again in 2010 as 10-15 inch fish and this last fall as 15-20 inchers. This data only is looking at the walleye response to the slot limit and not the sauger population. Any questions let me know and I would be happy to come and talk to the club some time. (Editor - Kevin is working to bring Dave to a club meeting.)


David Rowe
Fish Team Supervisor
Poynette
Bureau of Fisheries Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

YFC Dues

With the new year it is time to renew your membership in the Yahara Fishing Club.

You can pay your dues at the December meeting or by sending your check to the club's post office box: P O Box 3271 Madison 53704.

Individual memberships are still \$25.00 and family memberships are \$35.00. The money raised from the annual dues is used to cover the cost of operating the Fishing club

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Notes From the Prez

Is it spring yet? What an interesting winter we are having with this warm weather. I know some of you are ice fishing and I hope catching lots. Talking of ice fishing, we had a good turnout for, "The Kids Ice Fishing Day". I saw lots of smiling kids and parents coming in for hot dogs and hot chocolate. Many parents thanked us and shared what their little ones were catching. Many thanks to all of the people volunteering from our club to make this event fun for everyone.

Our February meeting should be short and sweet. It's our annual auction/fundraiser. Dig through your boats, basements, and garages, your friends garage, etc for some good stuff to donate. Charlie will be our auctioneer. Bring lots of cash as there are always great deals and you can't beat the prices.

The end of the month brings the big Fishing Expo. I hope all of you can make it out there to enjoy some seminars, buy from the vendors, including those who support us and get some great tips for fishing. If you can help out at the Expo or our booth it will be most appreciated. We will have signup sheets at the meeting and hope to get every slot filled. Posters were handed out last meeting so I am starting to see them posted in various places. Thanks everyone for getting them out there. Also, we have some great raffle prizes for this year and if Jim P. has some time he can tell us about a few of them in the next meeting.

Congratulations to Jim Pankratz for winning the Pete Froland award this year. He has given a lot of himself to help promote the club. Right now if you know

someone or a business who wants to donate something for a prize for the raffle be sure to let Jim know.

Our White fishing extravaganza in Door county will be over by our next meeting. So I hope everyone that went enjoyed themselves and caught lots of fish. In March we will have another trip to Clements Barge. Tom will talk more about it in the meeting. Also, on our web page you can find other upcoming events that you may enjoy.

Tom and Chris are evaluating a new messaging system, so in the future we will be able to get messages to everyone via a newsgroup. Also, we are thinking of moving to color newsletters which will be distributed electronically. We will still mail newsletters to those of you who don't have a computer as well. This is in the planning stages so if you have any input let Tom or Chris know.

Be sure to renew your membership if you have not done so already. We have membership cards available at every meeting so you can fill it out during the break if you want.

In March I am really looking forward to hearing Robert Blosser speak. He is a walleye tournament fisherman from the Poynette area and I am sure he will touch on Lake Wisconsin. I believe he is speaking at the expo as well.

Well everyone enjoy the ice fishing while it lasts! See you at the next meeting if not sooner.

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News from Charlie Grimm on the Warner Park Lagoon

The club's board discussed at the January meeting the ongoing Warner Park Lagoon issues. Let's start out by saying, once again, a big thank you to Jack Hurst for his long and determined fight in regards to this. Jack, along with the group Wild Warner, has worked hard to protect and restore this important area for spawning and fishing habitat. Several years ago, the Madison Fishing Expo gave our club \$12,000 to be used for dredging of the lagoon. After many setbacks and other requirements from the DNR and the City of Madison, the

money remains in our bank account. The latest obstacle is a complete series of tests for the water, sand, mud, etc. to determine how badly the lagoon has been mis-treated, that is required before any further progress can be made. This is a very expensive undertaking. The board voted to use \$2,000 to help this be accomplished. Many of us feel, of course, that one of the worst problems facing the health of the lagoon is the annual Rythym 'n Booms fireworks and all the debris that falls into the water. Stay tuned.



11th Annual Muskie School

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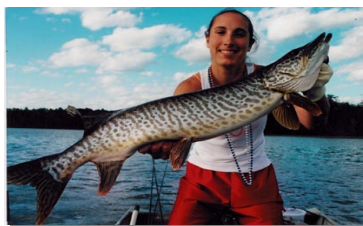
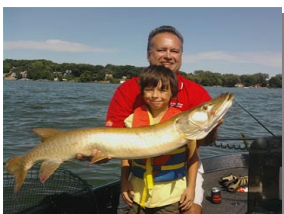
Date: March 17, 2012
Time: 7:30am – 3:30pm
Place: Waunakee High School

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Jim Pankratz Awarded Pete Froland Award



Charlie Grimm presents the award to Jim for the many hours he has devoted to the club as a board member and in particular for his work on the Kids Ice Fishing Days and the Fishing Expo. His enthusiasm is contagious.



Jim Kloth assembling Ice Fishing gear for the Kids Ice Fishing day

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 3271
Madison, WI 53704

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Street _____

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Email _____ @ _____

Annual Dues:

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

Except for special Summer “On the water” dates, meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Lakeside VFW Hall, John Nolan Dr, & Lakeside St. in Madison.

*An Organization to Educate, Protect and Propagate the Interests of All Fishermen in the Yahara Basin Area
Including all of Madison’s Lakes*

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, Feb 14th**, at the VFW Hall

The **General Membership meeting** starts at **7:00 pm**.

Charlie Grimm will auction off donated items

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February Events

February 10-11th Whitefish extravaganza

February 14th VFW Hall - Regular monthly meeting

March Events

March 13th . VFW Hall - Regular monthly meeting. Robert Blosser speak.

He is a walleye tournament fisherman from the Poynette area

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

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President -Karlette Schoen ..242-8803 | Director - Don Gostomski, 249-8240 | Director - Mike Hutchen ...234-1590 |
| Vice Pres. - Charlie Grimm .249-9694 | Director - Paul Zoch 241-5443 | Director - Don Hammes ... 836-1205 |
| Secretary - Paul Nichols 309-335-6815 | Director - Jesse Tougas831-3151 | Director - Randy Winkleman 358-4885 |
| Treasurer - Dennis Puser... ..576-0929 | Director - Tom Klein225-4968 | |

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



Yahara Fishing Club
P.O. Box 3271
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