



January
2008

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Kids Ice Fishing Day 2008

January 19, 2008 9am – 1pm

Sponsored by the Yahara Fishing Club

www.yaharafishingclub.org

Provided free of charge to all youth age 15 and under attending (Adult supervision is requested):

- Instruction from Yahara Fishing Club Members
- Fishing holes will be drilled for you
- Icefishing pole (first 200 youth), bait
- Hot Dogs, potato chips and hot chocolate

This year's event will be at the Brittingham Park shelter, located near the corners of Park St. and West Washington Ave.

As I sit and write this, it is 20° outside, we've had over 22" of snow and finally there is a "real" winter in Wisconsin. There's already decent ice on Monona Bay and plenty of fish willing to bite. We will again be on Monona Bay, at the Brittingham Park shelter on Saturday, January 19, 2008. The fishing starts at 9am and officially goes to 1pm, with set-up starting around 7:30-8:00am.

What makes this event work are you, the club membership, so we need you there, and not just those who ice fish. We will be providing hot chocolate and hot dogs again, so help in the food tent is always needed. And instructing participants in the finer point of ice fishing is what this day is about. Make the rounds on the ice, and ask the kids as well as parents if they need any guidance - some parents may be too shy, embarrassed or intimidated to ask for your help, so initiate contact with them.

Mark your calendars and I'll see you there!

Questions?? Contact me @ 455-2067 or esox4me@hotmail.com

Eric Olson

Notes From The Prez

I love Christmas, but you will be reading this after Dec. 25. I also love ice over Christmas break. I haven't been out yet, but I will be out on consecutive days starting Dec. 26. It has been a while since we have had a chance to ice fish this early in the year.

Two very important activities are coming up quickly. Our Kids Ice Fishing Day is Jan. 19 and we are pretty confident that we won't have to cancel this year. Bring plastic buckets (2 ½ gallon to 5 gallon) to the Jan. meeting. We need them. This is one of the big activities that help YFC meet goals for the year. It is a lot of fun to see those kids catching fish through the ice. The expectation is that everyone will help on that day. I hope to see everyone that morning after I drill enough holes to last me a whole season. Anyone who wants to come and help me drill is welcome. I am bringing 2 drills and I can only use one at a time. See you Jan. 19th.

The Madison Fishing Expo is also creeping up on us. We need volunteers to man the booth, sell/take tickets at the door and help the vendors bring their "stuff" in. Festivities start at about 7:30am that Friday. The YFC helping these vendors is one thing that makes the Madison Fishing Expo a little special. Let's do our part. I will see you there. I will be there pushing boats around. Make sure you sign up at the meeting or contact Jim Pankratz (288-9789 JimAnnePan@aol.com). Jeff Western is the YFC rep. to the Fishing Expo and you can also contact him.

Have you paid your dues? if not, please take the time to follow through on this. The influx of this money helps YFC remain flexible.

The highly regarded YFC Pete Froland Award will be awarded at our Jan. 8th meeting. Make sure you are there to see who is going to get the highest honor YFC can bestow on an individual.

Just so everyone knows, WalMart recently sent me a check for \$1000. If you see Rick Strayer (Westside sporting goods manager or any of the WalMart associates who help with our Kids Fishing Day) thank them. Our association with WalMart over the last few years has allowed us to put on a quality event.

Heckels has a deal for us. Starting in December, any member of our club who buys a boat, motor, trailer package will have \$100 donated back to the Yahara Fishing Club. If you are going to buy a boat, contact me at: 849-7245 or ljkoopf@tds.net or go to Heckels on Main Street in Sun Prairie. If you contact me, I will make every effort to help you out as much as I can. This is very generous of Heckels and a great deal for our club.

January's speaker is Mike Staggs who heads up the fisheries division of the DNR. I'm sure he has some interesting information from us. If you have questions of Mike, make sure you ask them at the meeting.

I want everyone to remember that our Feb. meeting is the big auction. Bring everything you can get your hands on. Get your garage and/or basement cleared out and make some money for the club. I'm pretty sure Col. Charlie Grimm will be the auctioneer again this year. I think we will have some pretty good stuff up for sale. Some of it is in my garage right now.

See you at the next meeting and at Kids Ice Fishing Day.

Fishing Season Never Closes,
Duffy Kopf - Prez



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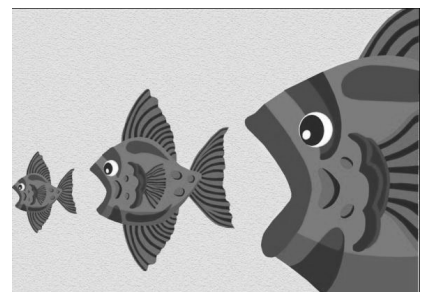
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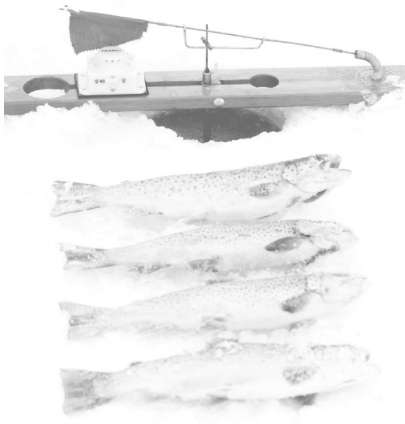
How many lakes can you go to in the winter and catch brown trout through the ice? Not many, but Devils Lake in Wisconsin's Sauk County is one where you can catch your trout limit and also have a chance to catch northern pike, an occasional walleye, and panfish all in a beautiful 369 acre lake surrounded by Devils Lake State Park.

Devils Lake is managed for both trout and northern pike. Tim Larson, the DNR's Fishery Biologist for the area, told me that between 16,000 and 18,000 trout are annually stocked in the lake with most being at least the legal 9 inches or larger. Larson added, "The qualities that make this lake such a good fishery are the clear water, good weeds, deep water, and a quality forage base."

Most trout are in the 12 to 15 inches, but there are some trout caught over 20 inches. The daily limit is 3 trout and you must possess an inland trout stamp besides your valid fishing license.

Drill your holes before you start fishing, so that you only spook the fish once when fishing. The south end of the lake, where the feeder creek enters and the rip-rapped shoreline are good locations for setting out your tip-ups and to start jigging. Start putting tip-ups out just outside the weedline in 10 to 12 feet of water and also put a few more out in deeper water (20-30 feet) for the suspended trout or pike. Concentrate your efforts on the weed line and first breaks for most of your fishing at Devils Lake.

Remember, Wisconsin allows 3 lines per person, so it's advantageous to fish with some friends for the additional lines and tip-ups. A few anglers can cover a lot of water and depths with tip-ups on Devils Lake,



which will greatly increase your odds of catching fish. Always, a mixed bag of trout, pike, and a walleye is possible. There also are bass, both largemouth and smallmouth in the lake, but I've never caught either of them in the winter.

Good electronics are important for marking fish and setting up your tip-ups. Using quality electronics allow you to see the fish and the schools of baitfish, so that you can then position your bait just above them.

Jigging can also catch trout in the winter. Use a lead-head jig or jigging spoon (Rapala, Hopkins, Swedish Pimple, Bait Rigs Deep Willow) and jig from the bottom up till you contact fish. If you want to use a lead-head jig, use either a 1/8th or 1/4 ounce jig and a whole fathead or chub minnow and vary your jigging cadence till you find one that the fish like. A piece of minnow

or a minnow head works well with the spoons. Trout will usually hit the jig on the fall much like walleyes do.

There's also a good pike population, so putting out a large shiner (or golden shiner) can work while trout. Pike cruise the weed edges feasting on the abundant population of bluegills and crappies. Another bonus is that you can always fish for bluegills, crappies, or rock bass if the other fishing is slow.

Wilderness Fish and Game's Wayne Whitemarsh and Wally Banfi fish Devils Lake regularly. Give Wayne or Wally a call (608)-643-2433 for the latest ice and fishing conditions on the lake. Believe me when I say Wayne and Wally know! Gander Mountain's (Baraboo store) Chuck Pohlman is another person who knows the lake and is worth calling for information.

Lake is located just off Highway 12 and an hour north of Madison. Everything you could need is in Sauk City or nearby Baraboo. There's good access at the north end of the park and also at the lake's south end. Once there's good ice, you can drive your vehicle on it.

Continued next page

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Winter Trout, continued

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News from the Clement's Barge

Hi Everyone...hope the holidays have been good to you. Fishing is good right now but a lot of small bluegills being caught. Need to hunt and peck a little to get some bigger ones. Stoddard fishing has been pretty good all winter so far. The Lansing Dike area has caught some northern pike.

Water's Edge in Stoddard is having a ice fishing derby on January 12 and on February 9th. Put that down on your calendars.

We are trying to get the boat landing cleared off for boat fishermen and having a tough time with the Township of Genoa. They have the responsibility to keep it clear, not only for fishermen but for safety reasons too. There could be an incident on the water and with no access for emergency response; it would be the fault of the Township. There have been many times in the past when we have had to launch boats to help different government agencies and rescue teams out. The Township has a point when they say their equipment doesn't allow them to do the ramp itself, so Dad and I spent the money, bought a plow for our mule and will try to keep the ramp clear. We keep asking the Township to please plow some room at the top of the ramp and make some space for the trucks and trailers. If this was done, you would have access to fishing all winter in open water. Right now there isn't enough room to park your equipment or get to the top of the ramp. The big drifts that are piled up from the one path they make create an impossible situation. Board members don't seem to realize that this would be a boon to businesses in the area during the long winter months, as well as to your freezers with fresh fish. The ice is terrible up near the dam and could go out any time, especially if there are more boats going out fishing. If we don't have more luck with this, I will post all the people in charge of the Township of Genoa and you can add your weight to our pleas by calling and writing these individuals. Last time we did this to correct a wrong, thousands of you sent emails and phone calls. We will keep asking them to do the job **Jack Blask** originally asked of Dairy-land power when he turned over the property to them many years ago and is now maintained by the Township of Genoa.

Any questions just drop me a line.

Mark & Byron Clements



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Selected Fishing Reports & Ice Conditions courtesy of the Wisconsin DNR (Mid-December)

Winnebago System

Ice has formed on the upriver lakes on the Winnebago system, and some of the sheltered bays and shorelines on Winnebago proper are also ice covered. Anglers have begun to hit "first ice" for panfish near the Highway 41 bridge in Oshkosh by "Skipper Bud's" and in other sheltered bays with shallow water. Anglers are also setting tip-ups and jigging for northern pike on the southwest end of Lake Poygan near Captain's Cove Bar. There are still thin patches of ice in ALL areas so venture out with extreme caution and stay in shallow waters until it firms up more, likely by this coming weekend. We are looking forward to a good ice fishing season on the Winnebago System if the ice continues to hold through the winter. Good numbers of very nice bluegills and perch are already being caught in the bays of Lake Butte des Morts and the west shore of Lake Winnebago. The walleye population in the system is at a very high level and should provide some good action as soon as anglers can venture out on the main body of the lakes. The lakes also hold good numbers of trophy sized northern pike which provide good action early and late ice.

Blackhawk Lake

There's a very good population of medium size (7 to 8 inch) bluegills. This fishery holds up throughout most all of the winter. As with most winter fisheries, the bite can become sporadic as the winter goes along but it's not because of a lack of fish. Perch -- There is a modest population of these fish with some pretty decent-sized fish. Some people targeting them have decent success but the fish are hard to find. They are generally a bonus fish caught incidental to bluegill fishing. Crappie - The lake offers a pretty decent population of medium size (9 to 10 inch) fish. This fishery holds up throughout the winter. It is generally a night bite. Largemouth bass-- A very good population of nice sized fish. In spite of the very good population, the bite from these fish seems to be fairly light. No size limit. Walleye -- A fairly decent population of fish with some legal fish and an 18-inch minimum size limit. Fishing pressure and catch rates are fairly low. Northern Pike -- A fairly decent population in the lake with a few large fish and a 26-inch minimum size limit. There is some pressure on these fish with an acceptable catch rate.

Cox Hollow Lake

Bluegills and crappie - This lake features a moderate population of medium and larger fish of both species. Because of limited numbers, this lake has a sporadic bite running from very good to poor. Fishing is generally best very early or very late in the day. Pumpkinseed sunfish - There's a pretty decent population of 6- to 7-inch fish that seems to bite a little more readily than bluegill. Perch -- a limited population of fish with some nice fish. A bonus for bluegill anglers. Largemouth bass -- A moderate population of medium to small fish that seem to bite readily most all season. No size limit. Walleye -- A pretty decent population of 12- to 14-inch fish with very few if any larger. There's an 18-inch size limit.

Twin Valley Lake

Bluegills -- You'll find a large number of 5- to 7-inch fish and very few larger. Crappie - A large number of 6- to 8-inch fish and very few larger; similar prospects for perch. Largemouth bass - There's a pretty decent population of medium and larger fish but it's catch and release only. Walleye - You'll find a fair number of 12- to 15-inch fish and a few larger fish. Northern Pike and Musky - While this is not the place to go northern pike fishing, it does boast a good population of medium and medium-large musky. The closed season is Dec. 1, 2007, to first Saturday in May for musky.

Continued next page



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DNR reports, continued

Lake Michigan harbors

Many anglers don't realize that the "run" of Lake Michigan trout and salmon can start weeks or even months before adult fish actually show up in our streams. In most cases, the mouths of our major rivers are located within the confines of a harbor. Therefore, trout and salmon staging to run our streams find themselves staging to run the stream through our harbors. Depending on ice conditions, our harbors can offer some very good rainbow and brown trout fishing under the ice. Be careful though, as ice formation is affected by both weather and stream current. Fish too close to flowing water and the ice can be dangerous. If you try this type of fishing, please always wear a personal floatation device (PFD), tell others when and where you are going fishing and when you will be back, and stay in areas where you know the ice is safe and other anglers are also fishing. Shiner minnows on tip-ups and jigging baits resembling minnows all work well; as well as the old favorite -- the spawn sac. Make sure you have plenty of line on your reel though, as a charging 10-pound brown trout can peel-off 50 yards of line in a second.

So far, ice has just formed on most inland southeastern Wisconsin lakes and harbors and little ice fishing is going on right now. Recent sleet has set-back good ice formation on most lakes. It

2007 Yahara Fishing Club Fishing Contest

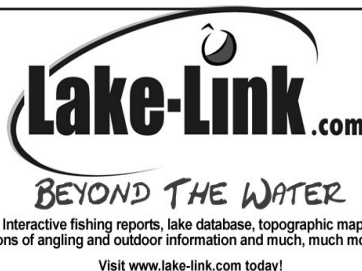
Muskie	48	Clay Russell
Northern Pike	43 ½	Jeff Western
Walleye	28 ½	Mike Michaels
Sauger		No Entry
LM Bass	21 ½	Jeff Western
SM Bass	21	Jeff Western
Bluegill	11 7/8	Linda Swenson
Perch	12 ¼	Jerry Paffenroth
Crappie	12 1/16	Jack Hurst
Catfish	33	Larry Mothershead
Brook Trout	13	Stan Nichols
Brown Trout	18 ½	Steve Hurst
Rainbow Trout	11	Jim Zegers
White Bass	15 ½	Paul Zoch

Dear Clubs Members

In keeping with Heckels Marina's long standing tradition of supporting fishing clubs we are excited to announce the "Support our Clubs" sales event starting December 15th, 2007 and running thru May 1st, 2008. Purchase any boat/motor/trailer package from any of Heckels 3 locations in Eagle River, Wausau/ St. Point; Sun Prairie Heckels will donate \$100 back to your club in your name. Fishing clubs like yours truly do make a difference. And Heckels Marina wants to help.

To qualify you must be a current member of the club you wish to receive the \$100 donation and only one donation of \$100 dollars per boat package sold. The fishing clubs must be a legitimate club and Heckels has right to refuse payment if club can not be validated.

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Membership	Jim Pankratz	288-9789	JimAnnePan@aol.com
Kids Fishing Day	Duffy Kopf, Jim Zegers, Paul Marunich, Rick Seeger		
Kids Ice Fishing	Rick Seeger/Eric Olson		

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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Annual Dues:

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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, January 8th**, 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: Mike Staggs

January Events

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 8th Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, Lakeside VFW Hall
Speaker: Mike Staggs, WDNR Fisheries

January 19 Kids Ice Fishing Day, 9am – 1pm, Brittingham Park

February Events

February 12th Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, Lakeside VFW Hall
Annual Club Auction

February 22-24 Madison Fishing Expo

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

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Vice President - Paul Marunich...219-4449
Secretary - Jim Zegers.....848-6299
Treasurer - Brad Czebotar873-5228

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Check out our web page at:
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