



Yahara Fishing Club January 2025 Newsletter

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Gluttony Doesn't Pay

By Stan Nichols

The northern pike I entered in the YFC fishing contest was far from a winner, but it is one of the best fish stories of the year.

I went bluegill fishing in Lake Monona about the middle of July. I was armed with typical panfish rigs - ultralight spinning gear, four-pound line, small jig, and some Big Red worms. I usually drift unless or until I find a good spot to anchor. I started drifting off the mouth of the Yahara River. I marked some fish, so I baited up and dropped one line in the water. Almost immediately, I caught a fish. I thought this could be a banner day. I baited up again and dropped the first line back in the water, then baited up a second rig and dropped it in. About that time, I had a bite on the first pole. As I was landing that fish I had a bite on the second pole. I set down the first pole with the fish and set the hook on the second pole. I set the second pole down and finished landing the fish on the first pole. When I went to land the fish on the second pole, it was coming in hard. I thought probably I drifted into some weeds and the fish got tangled. Then the line started going the wrong direction. Usually, I set the drag tight on my panfish poles. I don't worry much about panfish breaking the line and sometimes I get a better hook set. With some back cranking at the appropriate time, I got the fish close to the boat where I could see it was the northern I entered in the fishing contest. Fishing for panfish I wasn't prepared for landing the northern. I had to untie my landing

net one-handed while holding the rod in the other hand. One-handed, I couldn't back-crank the reel, and running the landing net one-handed on a bigger fish wasn't my preferred method, but I got the fish in the boat. I estimate it weighed about nine pounds. I could see it had something in its stomach, and I couldn't find my jig to unhook it. Finally, the line broke and I was going to release it. After working about 15 minutes, it was obvious the fish wasn't going to make it, so I added it to my bag. When I got home and cleaned it, it had a seven-inch bluegill in its stomach. The bluegill had my jig in its mouth. I hadn't hooked the northern, but it couldn't get the bluegill out of its stomach - gluttony doesn't pay. I must have hooked the bluegill, and when I was landing the fish on my other pole, I suppose it took a minute or two; the northern swallowed the bluegill on my second pole. The bluegill was fine, and I cleaned it with the rest of the fish I got that day. I like northern to eat, but I am picking this one.



See Page 2 for Stan's Pickling Recipe.

January 8th MEETING

7 pm, Arena Room of Bowl-A-Vard Lanes (2121 E. Springs Drive, Madison).

Stan's Pickling Recipe

Here is my pickling recipe (from Pat Patterson, an old-time, Vilas County fishing guide):

-For one-gallon of pickled fish - any white-fleshed fish works, not good for oily fish. It is good to freeze the fish, especially northerns for a few days before pickling to kill any tape worms. (I fill a 5-quart ice-cream pail with fillets or fish chunks)

-Fill a gallon jar half full of cold water and dissolve one-cup of pickling salt in it (I split the fish between two ice cream pails and use the above recipe for each pail)

-Put fish strips or chunk in salt solution and refrigerate for 48 hours.

-At the end of 48 hours, drain and rinse fish and container.

-Return fish to container and add cold white vinegar. Shake to loosen fish fillets or chunks. Refrigerate for 24 hours.

- About four hours before the of the vinegar period, make up the final brine. The final brine is one small box of mixed pickling spices, three cups of white sugar, and six cups of white vinegar. Bring the mixture to a rolling boil. Stir and boil the mixture for ten minutes and don't breathe heavily unless you have clogged sinuses. Set the mixture aside to thoroughly cool. (I triple the recipe except for the pickling spice for the amount of fish I pickle). After the mixture is cool you can add a couple cups of cheap wine.

-Slice a quantity of onions. Drain off and discard the white vinegar.

-Put fish in a separate container with a layer of fish and a layer of onions until the container is full. I use quart yogurt containers. When the container is full, pour in cold pickling solution. This fills about 11-12 yogurt containers. Refrigerate for two to three days, and the fish are ready for snacking. The longer you wait, the better the taste. If you have any pickling solution left, hard boil some eggs and pickle them.

Pete Froland Award



John Pribek is the winner of the club's Pete Froland Award for 2024.

Welcome to the Board

A big welcome to Clay Russell who is rejoining the board after some years away. And a big thanks to Matt Camp who is stepping down after three years as Board member and Secretary, as well as club raffle coordinator. Good luck with your new startup Matt!

Our February Meeting will be on Thursday the 13th

Because of a scheduling conflict, our February meeting has been moved from Wednesday to Thursday. Mark your calendars!

We Have Lost a Friend and Member

Tex Torgeson, a longtime member and current Board member, passed away on December 22nd. He will be sorely missed. Tex was serving his second term on the board, staying on even after his retirement move to Florida. He was our club auctioneer, had completed a major project for us on the club's history, and had recently volunteered to work on the 80th anniversary committee and the coming website update. There will be a visitation at 10 am followed by a service at 11 am on Thursday January 9th at Cress Funeral Home in Sun Prairie.



Upcoming Speakers

January 8th - Louie Dazzo, fishing Lake Michigan salmon in the streams and rivers
6 pm Mini-Session - Jim Kusuda, perch hanger rigs

February 13th (Note this meeting is on Thursday) - Matt Lazarski, Guiding on the Wisconsin River from a pontoon.

March 12th - Bill Schultz, Lake fishing for smallmouth.

Notes from the President

By Phil James

Winter activities are ramping up! Kids Ice Fishing Day is coming, and there will be jobs to sign up for at next week's meeting, as well as a rod-tying day soon after. The event itself will be Saturday January 25th, with setup starting at 7 am. We hold the event with or without ice (but with ice is a lot more fun). Next up is the Charlie Grimm Memorial Whitefish Outing on February 7th-9th. This is our most popular outing with as many as 40 participants in past years. I finally bought a Vexilar, so I should be able to really nail them this year! Then we have the Fishing Expo February 21st-23rd, a huge show where you can get anything you ever dreamed of for fishing, and some things you didn't know existed. The club will be manning two booths this year, so there will be plenty of opportunities to sign up to help. You can also help with show setup or with the ticket booth, which gets you free admission to the show. And remember to sell some Expo raffle tickets for the club, this is our biggest fundraiser. Or buy a book for yourself, some of the prizes are won by club members every year. There are other ice outings in the works as well, so keep your eyes open for those announcements. That will take us into March, and we'll be watching the ice clear off and planning for open water and spring panfish!

Be Nice Not Naughty: Renew Your Membership for 2025

You can provide your payment to new Membership Coordinator Paul Meyer (thanks to Paul for stepping up and taking on this role!). If you have cash and need change, Treasurer Doug Galloway can help. Same prices as recent years – \$35 for individuals, \$45 for families, \$10 for students. Thanks for taking care of this sooner rather than later!

Club Outings

The hard water season is finally here!

With cold weather forecasted all week now we should have stable ice locally at least in the shallows. Let's try to hit Monona Bay this weekend or early next week!

Mississippi Backwaters

Early ice Mississippi backwaters fishing has been producing some great fishing for perch, bluegills and crappies. The shallow areas around La Crosse and Stoddard have up to 8 inches of ice and with this cold week should be locked in good. I recently attended an excellent seminar by guide Adam Christianson at the WI Ice Fishing Expo and definitely know where to send you. I went on a scouting mission the next day and easily caught my limit of perch. Please contact me for information anytime and I would be happy to share what I learned. We will plan an outing to La Crosse over the next 2-3 weeks with January 11, 12 or 18, 19 all possibilities but again if you want to head up earlier or during the week let me know.

Devil's Lake trout fishing

Let's head up to Devil's Lake to fish for some trout through the ice. We're looking at the end of January for this one.

Green Bay Do Your Own Whitefish Outings (likely now January 11 or 12th)

I plan on going up to Green Bay and fishing every weekend available with safe ice. Come along and learn how we catch them in 5-20 feet of water. You would need to be able to walk a few hundred yards on ice but bring your ATV/UTV/Snowmobile if you have one.

Sturgeon Bay Whitefish Outing February 7, 8, 9th

The long-range forecast is looking great for this outing, with below-average temperatures in store for the entire month of January. This is the year to get out on one of our most popular and fun outings! Drive out in covered heated UTVs to heated shacks and test your skills against the tasty and hard-fighting whitefish. This is a semi-guided outing with a fabulous and safe group of guides. There will be a separate "Outings" email coming out soon about this outing including hotel accommodations, guide rate and more.

Green Lake Lakers

We are going to chase after the hard-fighting lake trout on Green Lake.

This will be a guided outing with rates around \$150 per person. This includes safe transportation to an ice shack, includes lunch and a full day of guided fishing. This will be a weekday trip during the first or second week of February.

Sign-up for these outings through our club email, at a meeting or by contacting me by phone or text.

We're a fishing club, let's go fishing together!

Jim Pankratz 608-709-6442

2025 Brings More Mini Sessions

Jim Kusuda will discuss perch hanger rigs on Jan. 8, 2025, and Kurt Welke will share his knowledge on How to Prepare a Perfect Shore Lunch on Feb. 13. The mini sessions start at 6 p.m. and wrap up around 6:30 before the regular meetings begin at 7. When additional mini-sessions are confirmed, we'll make sure you know about them. Contact Ken Terrill(ken.terrill3011@gmail.com) with ideas for mini sessions you'd like to present!

Club Expo Raffle

We are officially running our Expo raffle again this year as a major fundraiser for our Kids' Fishing Day events and need your help! You can buy or take tickets home with you to sell. Tickets will be available at our January and February club meetings as well as at the WI Fishing Expo February 21-23rd. Please contact me if these times don't work for purchasing or returning sold or unsold tickets so we can make alternative arrangements. We could also use your help in soliciting prizes for the raffle. If you have any business contacts or would like to donate a prize for the raffle, please let me know.

Thank you for your efforts to support our club!

THE YAHARA
FISHING CLUB MADISON, WI
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27th Annual Kids Ice Fishing Day

When: Saturday January 25th, 2025, 9 AM - 12 PM
Where: Brittingham Park Shelter, Lake Monona
What: First 300 kids 14 and under get a free ice fishing rod and reel
Free live bait, predrilled holes and fishing instruction provided

No registration necessary
Event held regardless of ice conditions
Free Lunch and hot chocolate

Questions?
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2024 Yahara Fishing Club Contest Results

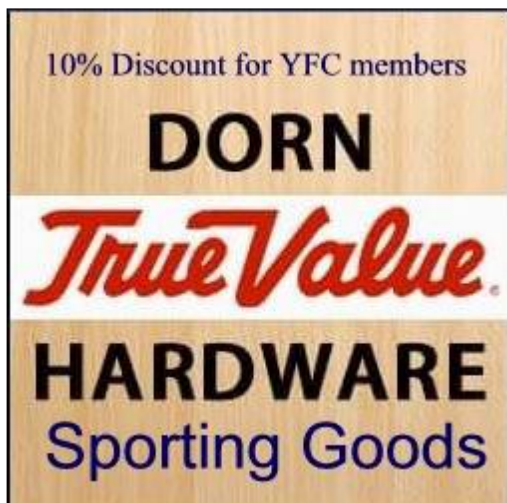
• denotes money winner for species

Wisconsin Inland Waters		All Other Waters	
<p>Muskie</p> <p>\$ 46" Robert Murphy Jr</p> <p>Northern Pike</p> <p>\$ 39" Mark Gustafson 38.25" Larry Mothershead 38" Ranger Hasburgh 36" Larry Mothershead 35" Paul Zoch 32.5" Max Shpak 31.375" Stan Nichols</p> <p>Walleye</p> <p>\$ 29" Ranger Hasburgh 28.25" Paul Zoch 28" Richard Bee 26" Robert Murphy Jr 25.25" Greg Belanger 22" Jim Kusuda</p> <p>Largemouth Bass</p> <p>\$ 20.75" Jeff Western 20.5" Larry Mothershead 20" Paul Zoch 19.5" Jim Kusuda 19" Jeff Western</p> <p>Smallmouth Bass</p> <p>\$ 20" Larry Mothershead</p> <p>Sauger</p> <p>\$ 21" Richard Bee 19.25" Jim Kusuuda</p> <p>White Bass</p> <p>\$ 16.75" Paul Zoch 16.5" Jack Hurst 15" Clay Russell</p>	<p>Catfish</p> <p>37.75" Larry Mothershead \$ 35" Max Shpak 35" Kevin Tvedten 34.25" John Porto 32" Paul Zoch 28" John Pribek</p> <p>Perch</p> <p>\$ 12.25" Jim Kusuda 12.25" Stan Nichols 12.25" Kevin Tvedten 11.75" Paul Zoch 11.5" Steve Hurst 11" Brad Czebotar</p> <p>Crappie</p> <p>\$ 15.25" Jeff Taylor 14.5" Kevin Tvedten 13.75" Jim Kusuda 13" Paul Zoch 13" Larry Mothershead</p> <p>Bluegill</p> <p>\$ 11" Matt Friederick 10.75" Jim Kusuda 10.75" Kevin Tvedten 10.5" Paul Zoch 10.5" Jeff Western 10.25" Rich Connor 10.25" Kevin Tvedten 10.125" Larry Mothershead</p> <p>Trout</p> <p>\$ 17.25" Steve Hurst - Brown 12.625" Stan Nichols - Brook 11.5" Jim Pafffenroth - Brook</p>	<p>Walleye</p> <p>25" Phil James</p> <p>Sauger</p> <p>\$ 17.5" Jim Paffenroth</p> <p>Smallmouth Bass</p> <p>19.5" Jim Paffenroth \$ 18.25" Deena Wetzel</p> <p>Yellow Perch</p> <p>\$ 14" Mike O'Leary 12.625" Jerry Paffenroth 12.5" Jim Kusuda</p> <p>Crappie</p> <p>13" Matt Friederick</p> <p>Chinook Salmon</p> <p>\$ 39" Rich Connor 37" Mark Riederer 35" Paul Zoch</p> <p>Coho Salmon</p> <p>\$ 31" Paul Zoch 29" Rich Connor 24" Mark Riederer 23.5" Phil James</p> <p>Steelhead</p> <p>\$ 30" Phil James 29" Rich Connor</p> <p>Whitefish</p>	

Fish of the Year		
\$	34"	Burbot Max Shpak
\$	50"	Bighead carp Ken Franchi

Club Sponsors

A variety of businesses in the Madison area help sponsor activities of the Yahara Fishing Club, including printing of the newsletter. They also supply goods and services to the angling public. If you are in the Madison area and need something for your fishing trip, please give our sponsors a try.





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Membership card must be presented to receive the discount



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The Jan 8th meeting is at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes

We'll meet at 7 p.m. in our usual place (Arena Room) at Bowl-A-Vard

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Jan. 8th, 7 p.m.: Monthly meeting at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes. Louie Dazzo will speak on spring fishing on Lake Michigan, focusing on the tributaries for salmon and trout. Sounds like a great topic! The mini-session starts at 6 p.m. Jim Kusuda will discuss perch hanger rigs. Another great topic!

Saturday, Jan. 25th: Kids Ice Fishing Day. Setup 7:00 a.m.

Feb. 7-9: Charlie Grimm Memorial Whitefish Outing in Sturgeon Bay

Thursday, Feb. 13: 7 p.m. Monthly meeting at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes.

Feb. 21-23: Wisconsin Fishing Expo at the Alliant Energy Center

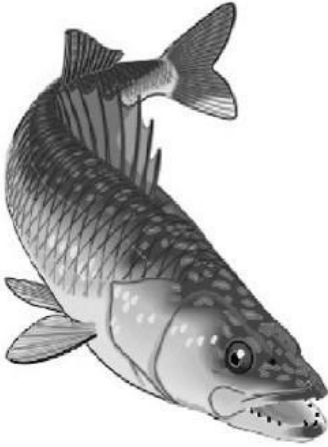
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Tom Harrington, Vice President
Doug Galloway, Treasurer
To be selected: Secretary
Jim Pankratz, Outings**

**Gerald King
Jim Krause
Clay Russell
Paul Meyer, Membership
Ken Terrill, Mini Sessions**

**Jim Kusuda
Kim Galloway
Max Shpak
Tom Wilke, Speakers**

Yahara Fishing Club
P.O. Box 259803
Madison, Wi 53725



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

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Form
P.O. Box 259803
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Annual Dues are from January 1 to December 31. Please print. *** ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Name ***

If Family or Youth, Additional Names

Email *** _____ @ _____

Street Address _____

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Individual \$35.00
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