



## *Yahara Fishing Club June 2025 Newsletter*

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### **Let's Lead Off This Month's Edition with Happy Customers from Kids Fishing Day 2025!**



Beautiful weather and lots of happy kids catching fish – that's pretty much how we draw it up! See pages 2, 3 and 7 for more pictures from our annual Kids Fishing Day.

### **JUNE MEETING IS ON THE WATER AT THE WARNER PARK BOAT LAUNCH**

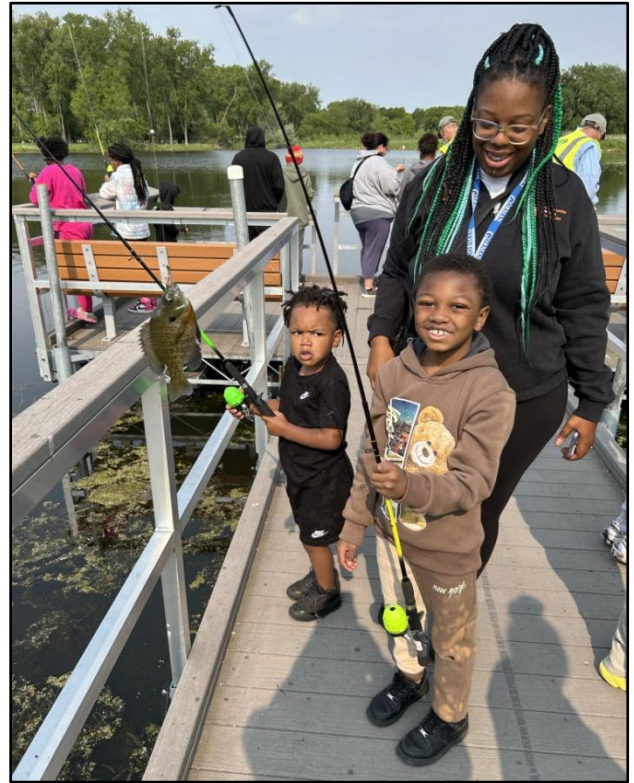
Join club members at 6 p.m. – food provided! And then hit the water to chase white bass or whatever else swims in Lake Mendota.

**Notes from our May speaker on page 3**

**Notes from the President on page 4**

**Summer club outing opportunities on pages 5 and 6**





*There are plenty more pictures from Kids Fishing Day on the club's Facebook page!*





*The kids always remind us that it's great to catch a fish, no matter what the size!*

## **Insanity and Fishing**

*By Stan Nichols*

Mike Norris started out his May presentation to the YFC with a famous quote about insanity – “Doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.” How does this apply to fishing? I think what Mike is saying is if you are not catching fish, try something different. What are some things that might be causing bad luck:

- Fishing memories
- Not understanding the seasonal needs of fish
- Not using the right lure for the conditions
- Fishing too slow

All these things are changeable; it is often a matter of time. As a long time subscriber of *In Fisherman* magazine they often have features on how to fish a certain lake. Looking at the recommendations it would often take three days to try them all. By that time conditions may have changed.

Mike is a guide on Big Green Lake and other central Wisconsin lakes. He specializes in catching smallmouth bass but also guides for other species. He is also a member of the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Starting in the spring, Mike doesn't fish Big Green. It is big and deep and doesn't warm up as quickly as other smaller, shallower lakes in the region. His favorite alternative is Fox Lake. Look for the warmest water you can find. His favorite technique is throwing a chatterbait up to the shore in shallow bays or inlets.

A recommended chatterbait is a black and blue Judder Jig.

He does not start fishing Big Green Lake until the water temperatures are in the 50s. Smallmouth have two seasons, spawning season and feeding season. Smallmouth spawn on the south end of the lake and in shallow bays like Norwegian and Dartmouth Bays. Again, he likes to fish a chatterbait or a Senko. Spawning season lasts about one month.



*May's speaker, Mike Norris, is a 2025 Inductee into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.*

The feeding season lasts the remainder of the year. After the spawn smallmouth go out onto the flats and start chowing down. Look for clouds of perch or bluegill fry on your electronics. Smallmouth will usually be in the neighborhood. Mike especially likes sandgrass flats where perch will hide.

Big Green smallmouth are pressured. There is usually a bass tournament every weekend in the summer. It is not unusual for a bass to have ripped lips indicating it might have been caught two or three times. That is why Mike's favorite

time to catch big fish is in the fall. Fall fish are deeper in 21 to 35 feet of water and they usually haven't been caught before. His favorite rig for catching these fish is a dropshot about two feet up the line and a jig on the bottom with a TRD lure.

Another hint for all who use Superglue for attaching plastics to hooks – go to Ace Hardware and get a bottle of Beacon Multigrip glue. It comes in bigger bottles, and it doesn't harden in the tube so it can be used longer. Mike runs Wacky Worm guide service. He can be reached on Facebook at Mikenorris 7773, at 630-842-8199, and [Comecatchsmallmouth.com](http://Comecatchsmallmouth.com).

## **Notes from the President**

*By Phil James*

Summer is here! With that our next three meetings will be on-the-water meetings. We will be meeting at local boat launches to share a little dinner and get out for an evening of fishing together, so plan on coming out. We have a volunteer to bring food to the June meeting, but we need people for the July and August meetings. That involves ordering food for 25-30 people (subs, pizza, chicken, whatever you want), picking it up and bringing it to the meeting. All costs will be reimbursed. If you can help out contact Eric Buzza at [ejbuzz@tds.net](mailto:ejbuzz@tds.net).

Even without our regular meetings the work of the club goes on. There will be a garage sale coming up, and of course there are outings on the books. We continue planning for our 80th Anniversary celebration on November 8th and working on projects with the city and the DNR, including a major fundraising effort for the Warner park lagoon project. There will be several positions that need to be filled soon, so please give those serious consideration when notices come out. The club depends on the contributions of its members.



## June On-the-Water Meeting

The June club meeting will be an on-the-water meeting at the Warner Park boat launch. We will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday June 11th to share some dinner, pile into boats and get some fishing done. Bring your own beverages, and bring a boat if you are able so we have enough seats to get everyone out. See you then!

## Thank You to D&S

A big thank you to Pat Hasburgh and D&S Bait for supplying the bait for Kids Fishing Day and for providing a room for the rod tying beforehand. D&S has been a longtime supporter of and contributor to the club and Pat has continued that tradition after taking over the shop. Thank you!

## Reminder on Club Contest Entries

Remember that entries to the club fishing contest are now to be submitted through the online form. Remember to take a photo of your fish next to a measuring device. Here are instructions for entering your fish:

- Go to the club website: [yaharafishingclub.org](http://yaharafishingclub.org)
- Click on Members Only and enter the password (a new password will be coming soon, which will be emailed to club members)
- Under Fishing Contest Information click on Fishing Contest Entry Form
- Fill out the form and click submit
- Email a picture of your fish next to a ruler to the address shown on the form ([yaharaentry@gmail.com](mailto:yaharaentry@gmail.com))
- You're done!

## Club Outings

### 100% Rated Fishing Day June 25th

The highest rated fishing day in years means **YOU HAVE TO GET OUT FISHING!!!** From shore, in a boat, on a river, lake or the Great Lakes and any time of day works. Just get out fishing!

## Tenney Park Breakwall

This will be a dusk shore fishing outing Thursday, June 5th and Tuesday, June 10th starting between 7:30-8:00 p.m. Drop by for 1-2 hours of fishing for walleye, smallmouth and northern. You'll be fishing shallow so think a light jig and swimbait/paddletail plastics in darker colors. Sunset is around 8:30.

## Madison Chain Outing

This will be a boat outing likely on Lake Mendota on June 18th. Everything should be biting with a fallback plan of white bass if all else fails.

*Club outings continued on page 6*

*From the club's Facebook page:*



## **Milwaukee Harbor**

The word is out and the salmon and brown trout are in. On low and ideally west wind days the harbor is fishable even in a small boat. There is no need to have big water gear as you can catch anything on a medium action rod with spoons, crankbaits and jigs and plastics. It's time to get your new fishing license and include a Great Lakes trout stamp to bring home some coho, rainbows or browns!

## **Clements Fishing Barge**

Anytime on the mighty Mississippi River is an adventure so there is never a bad time to go. They have been catching big walleyes, sturgeon and even a paddlefish recently. This is a great outing for kids and adults and no boat is needed as you will get a ride across the river to the barge where you can fish all day. Cost is \$25 per adult and \$5 for kids 15 and under.

## **Port Washington Salmon Charter**

Head out on Lake Michigan with Captain John Iverson of Iverson Sportfishing. Our June 5 and 20th crews are full but there is room for one more on June 12th. PLEASE contact me ASAP if interested. This is a great time to catch the best tasting coho salmon and more! Each 5 hour charter is for 6 people. Due to popularity and for ensuring that we have full crews we are requiring that you pay the full \$92 ahead of time. Don't miss this great opportunity to have fun, catch fish and all with a great captain at a great rate!

Sign up for any of these outings through our club email ([yaharafishingclub@gmail.com](mailto:yaharafishingclub@gmail.com)), 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

## **Must Read: A Parent's Feedback After Kids Fishing Day**

*Editor's Note: Our Kids Fishing Days require no small amount of planning (thanks again, Phil James and Gerald King!) and club-wide effort, but every now and then we get a poignant reminder of why we conduct these community-focused events. Check out this great feedback we received from a parent in our email box after Saturday's Kids Fishing Day!*

"I am writing to thank you, so sincerely, for today's event. It was fabulous. We have been hesitant to go fishing with our kids because I didn't want to make the investment in the gear, only to find out they're bored, they want a snack, this is awful, when will the fish bite, are we done yet, etc.

Going to your event was an easy, low-pressure way to try out fishing and turns out the kids love it! The energy of the volunteers was so contagious! We were so grateful for the fishing rods and the bait. We came home afterwards and this evening, we went to the storm water pond a few houses down and I'll be darned, there's fish in there!!! We even brought the cards you gave us and we could identify them! Bluegills and some little bass and even I think a small catfish!!

It was such a beautiful, sweet, slow moment in an otherwise busy day.

It's not easy to slow down when you have three kids and careers in full throttle, activities, sports, scouts, volunteer work, etc. We're going in every direction at once. But tonight, we stopped for a few hours, and we went fishing. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this."

*Again – great job, club members!*



How about a couple more photos from Kids Fishing Day, just for good measure! 😊



Old Dutch generously donated snacks for Kids Fishing Day



From the YFC Facebook page: In case you hadn't heard, it's possible to catch a few smallies at the club's Big Bay de Noc outing!



## 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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## ***The June 11th meeting is on the water!***

***We will meet at the Warner Park boat launch at 6 p.m. Food will be provided. Club members are encouraged to bring their boats to accommodate members without boats. If we have to cancel that evening due to weather, we will try the next day, Thursday, June 12th.***

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday, June 11, 6 p.m.:** On-the-water meeting at Warner Park launch. See details above.

**Saturday, June 14:** Take a Vet Fishing on Lake Waubesa. See [https://takeavetfishing.com/events/event\\_details/?event=1395](https://takeavetfishing.com/events/event_details/?event=1395) for details.

**Wednesday, June 25:** The solunar calendars identify this as the highest rated fishing day in years, so get onto the water! (See outings, page 5)

**Wednesday, July 9, 6 p.m.:** On-the-water meeting. Details in July newsletter.

**Saturday, July 12:** Fishing Has No Boundaries, Governor Nelson State Park. See <https://fhnbmadison.com/> for details.

**Wednesday, Aug. 13, 6 p.m.:** On-the-water meeting. Details in August newsletter.

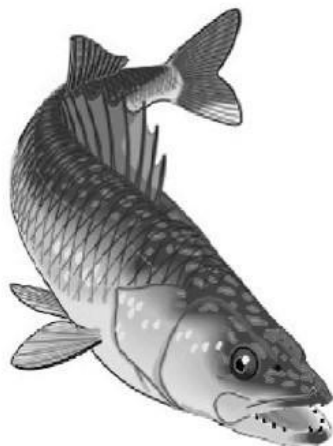
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Yahara Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 259803  
Madison, Wi 53725



Check out our web page at: [www.yaharafishingclub.org](http://www.yaharafishingclub.org)

**Yahara Fishing Club Membership Form**  
**P.O. Box 259803**  
**Madison, WI 53725**

Annual Dues are from January 1 to December 31. Please print. \*\*\* ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Name \*\*\*

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If Family or Youth, Additional Names

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