



## *Yahara Fishing Club June 2026 Newsletter*

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### **The Life of an Outdoor Writer**

*By Stan Nichols*

Patrick Durkin, you may recognize the byline of a well-known Wisconsin outdoor writer. Patrick has written outdoor articles for 40 some years in publications like the Wisconsin State Journal, Wisconsin Outdoor Journal, and a wide variety of other publications.

The life of an outdoor writer- You know free trips to exotic hunting and fishing locations, free new gear to test-not. Realistically, it is more like sitting in a cubby hole office 12 hours a day, trying to write an article, pounding on the keyboard. There is a lot of politics in outdoor writing although many of us don't like reading about politics or criticisms of hunting and fishing. There are also a lot of freelance jobs that have nothing to do with hunting and fishing to keep food on the table.

Patrick is a Madison native, and his father was the Madison fire chief. He recounted many memorable moments from his youth beginning like it seems with many of our speakers catching bullheads with his grandfather up in Cherokee Marsh and the north end of Lake Mendota. He also recounted an ice-fishing adventure with a newly built ice-fishing shack that went sailing across Lake Monona in a strong wind. He grew up on the west side of Madison in a completely different era. He could hunt rabbits and deer in his backyard. He was a paperboy and nobody gave a second look at a kid on a bicycle with a shotgun or bow strapped across the paperboy basket. His fishing route was the west side of Lake Mendota. He recalls picking up a female hitchhiker with some dead rabbits on the car seat. He is 70 years old and still writing.



*Continued next page*

### **On The Water Meeting**

Our June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting is at Warner Park boat launch at 6:00 pm.

He “pines away” at the demise of the print media, and I agree with him. There are just places where cell phones don’t work. Magazines and newspapers were charging more and more for less and less until they went out of business. The ones that survived are mere shadows of themselves. The Wisconsin State Journal doesn’t even have an outdoor writer. A lot of the articles are just “soft advertising” for the add on the next page. Who cares if a 308-caliber rifle is better than a 30-06 rifle. If you own the 30-06 you aren’t likely to run out and buy a 308 because of a magazine article. I personally enjoy reading some of the classic articles that were full of adventure and exotic places.

Although his talk didn’t have a lot to do with fishing I think he is missing his calling. With the stories he related, he should think about columns in the genre of Patrick McManus (deceased writer for Outdoor Life Magazine) or Greg Knowles (North with Doc in In-Fisherman Magazine)

## **Club Members Invited to Help Out with Fishing Has No Boundaries**

Fishing Has No Boundaries is a great organization that gives people with various disabilities the opportunity to get out and enjoy the water and the wonderful sport of fishing! (<https://fhnbmadison.com/>) We, fishermen, know how therapeutic a day on the water can be, so we are looking for volunteers to help

make this year’s event successful. FHNB is wondering if any YFC members could help with this one-day event on July 11, 2026, at Governor Nelson State Park. Once a relationship between FHNB and the Yahara Fishing Club is re-established, it will probably be wanted and looked forward to for years to come.

FHNB is looking for volunteers at all levels of the event – everything from helping participants into the boats, holding boats, making lunches, to helping participants off the boats. The group is also in high need of boat owners to come out and drive their boats around for the day.

Finally, the organization is also looking for two fish cutters at 11 a.m. through 1 p.m. and then again at 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. There may be a few fish, there may be a lot of fish. The fish cutting is gearing this back up at the event because it is being asked for.

Any boat owners interested can contact the main director at the below information for further information on what that looks like for the day. They are looking for both v-hulls and pontoons. Contact Heather Horn at (608) 215-7805, email [becmegsam@gmail.com](mailto:becmegsam@gmail.com) or feel free to reach out to YFC member Bob Gracia ([graciarj04@yahoo.com](mailto:graciarj04@yahoo.com)) for more information. Let’s see what we can do to help with this extremely worthy cause!



## **Club Outings**

### **Madison Chain Outing**

After attending our June 10th on-the-water meeting why not continue with a streak of fishing the next 2 Wednesdays, June 17 and 24th. We will pick a lake on the Madison Chain with the hottest bite and avoid the weekend crowds. Are you ready for a Wednesday streak?! Sign up if you're bringing a boat or not so we can get as many people out as possible.

### **Clements Fishing Barge**

No boat needed. You can follow their site on Facebook and they post a fishing report almost daily. The bite has been HOT on the river for walleyes, bluegills, white bass and more. This would be a great time to hit the river! Cost is \$25 for age 16 and up and just \$5 for kids 6-15.

### **Sturgeon Bay Salmon Charter**

We have 2 boats going on Thursday morning, August 27th. This will be prime time for king salmon and your chance at catching a 20+ pound fish! This is a 5 hour charter and about \$160 per person. WE STILL HAVE 2 SPOTS OPEN FOR THE EARLY BOAT.. PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GOING.

### **Port Washington Salmon Charter**

Currently we have 3 confirmed dates, June 4, June 9 and August 28th. The June 4th trip is full but we have 1 OPEN SPOT for June 9 and we have 2 OPEN SPOTS on our August 28th charter. The cost will be about \$92 with a full 6 person charter and we're asking for a \$50 deposit to secure your spot. The June trips are for cohos, rainbows and lake trout with the August trip chasing large kings. This is a 7 hour charter for the price of 5..

We are a fishing club. Let's go fishing together!

*Jim Pankratz*      **608-709-6442**

Waubesa outing on May 20th



*Jim*



*Neil*



*Paul*



*John*

**From the Bay Du Noc outing:**



*Tom*



*Jim and John with catches fishes # 99 and # 100 from Saturday, May 16. They went on to catch 35 more.*



*Mike and Vern*



*Vern*

## 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 10th meeting is On The Water***

***Warner Park boat launch. Food and a brief meeting at 6:00 pm, then out trolling for white bass.***

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, June 6: Summer Kids Fishing Day at Warner Park.**

**Wednesday, June 10, 6 p.m.: First summer on-the-water meeting. This one will be on Lake Mendota. Meet at the Warner Park boat launch. Food will be provided.**

**Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. On the water meeting at 6:00 pm**

**Saturday, July 11: Fishing Has No Boundaries, Governor Nelson State Park. See page 3 and <https://fhnbmadison.com/> for more details.**

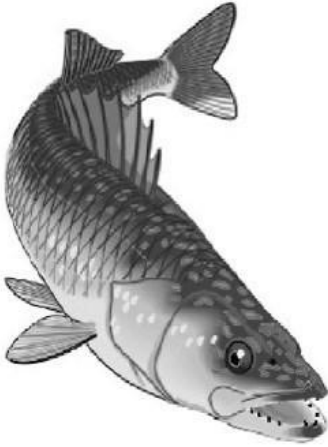
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#### **Coordinators**

**Jim Pankratz, Outings  
Tom Raschke and John Pribek, Newsletters**

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 \*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_

If Family or Youth, Additional Names

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