



May  
2012

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

## Aquatic Invasives- Stop the Hitchhikers

Aquatic invasive species have entered Wisconsin waters by a variety of means. Some, like the common carp, were introduced because someone thought they would be a valuable species. Legislators even fought to get the U.S. Fisheries Commission (forerunner of the Fish and Wildlife Service) to plant carp in their states. Some, like the sea lamprey, arrived because new migration pathways (the opening of the Welland Canal) were provided. Others like the silver, big-head, and grass carp were brought into southern states to be grown on fish farms. When the farms flooded they escaped into natural river systems. Some, like purple loosestrife and water hyacinth (not here yet), were planted because they have pretty flowers and in the case of loosestrife they serve as bee "pasture". Some were dumped into natural waters as they outgrew or were no longer wanted as pets. An alligator was captured a few years ago in the Lower Wisconsin River. Anglers dumping bait overboard introduced some, like rusty crayfish. Even nightcrawlers are exotic species (I like to do my part and drown everyone I can get my hands on). More recently a lot of exotics like spiny waterfleas, gobies, ruffe, and zebra and quagga muscles were brought in ballast water of ocean going ves-



Retired warden Gary Stacey

sels coming in to the Great Lakes from foreign ports. From there they are transported inland by smaller craft or even on wading gear. Many western states and proposed for Wisconsin is a ban on felt-soled wading shoes because they can transport rock-snot. April's YFC meeting focused on methods to avoid transporting these aquatic hitchhikers in boats and other fishing gear. The lines of defense are to inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment. Remove all attached aquatic plants, animals, and mud before launching and before leaving the water access. Drain all water from your boat, motor, bilge, livewells, bait containers, and all equipment before leaving the water access. Draining water kills

### Notes By Stan Nichols

98 % of veligers (larval mussels). Never move plants or live fish away from a waterbody. A fish is considered live only if it is in water (i.e. like in a live well). Buy minnows from a Wisconsin license bait dealer. Dispose of unwanted bait and other animals or aquatic plants in the trash.

Additional steps are recommended if you are transporting a boat or other equipment from one waterbody to another and if you are going out-of-state where restrictions can be more stringent (especially in some western states). Additional steps include spraying, rinsing, or drying boats and recreational equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when leaving a waterbody. Spray with high pressure and /or hot tap water (140° F), especially if moored for more than a day, or dry for at least five days. Disinfect by sanitizing your boat, trailer or equipment with a mixture of two tablespoons of household bleach per gallon of water.

Retired warden Gary Stacey reviewed these procedures at the April outdoor meeting at the Olin boatlanding. Warden Stacey also demonstrated the DNR's mobile

Notes From the Prez

powerwashing and disinfecting machine. The machine heats water to 140° and has various attachments to powerwash boats, trailers, and some internal parts of marine equipment. To totally disinfect a boat takes about 20 minutes. Gary can also provide certification that the boat was disinfected if you are taking your boat out-of-state. The unit costs about \$1400 and DNR hopes to have three units available with the highest priority along Lake Michigan and working inland from there.

Using personal watercraft, shore and fly-fishing, sailing, scuba diving, and waterfowl hunting also have the potential for spreading aquatic invasives- so be constantly vigilant. Although most prevention efforts to this point in time have focused on education Wisconsin has several laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and the fish disease VHS. Gary said it is likely more citations will be issued in the future for not following the laws. For more information look on the DNR website (DNR.WI.GOV) and in particular you can search for "VHS Prevention and "bait laws"

Only a week away and the opener will be here. I spent this past week looking at sales and trying to get a few things. I am looking forward to trying the new drop shot hooks that VMC make along with the pinched (half size) night crawlers that Gulp makes. I will let you know if they worked for me.

I really enjoyed the Greg Stacey's discussion of how to clean your boat to prevent invasive species last month. This month's speaker on May 8th will be Dave Rowe from the DNR. He will be talking about the Lake Wisconsin and the Wisconsin River walleye data they have collected.

Also, May is the white bass outing on the Fox River. Be sure to let Tom Klein know if you are coming. You will need to sign up for the lunch count and car pooling. There will be more details at the next meeting. Are outings are subject to change so if you can't make the next meeting be sure to check the web page for updates. Updates are being sent through the Yahoo group as well. If you need assistance using the Yahoo group be sure to let Tom know.

Kids fishing day is the first Sat. of June. Please take the time to come down and help out with getting the poles ready. If you took some posters home at our last meeting please post them when you can. Also, June starts are "on the water" meetings. Our first one will be on Lake Mendota for white bass. If you haven't done this before it's a lot of fun as there are plenty of fish to be found during this time.

Fishing has no Boundaries is July 14-15th. We need several members to help out with activities. Please see Marv Cutrell for more information.

Our club got another big thank you from the Expo staff. I personally want to thank everyone again for your hard work and dedication in making this a great fishing club. Thanks to all of you that make our newer members feel welcome as well.


See you at the next meeting. Be ready to share some fish tales.

Karlette



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## YFC Discussion Forum

This new way for club members to share fishing tips and other club-related discussions has been a big success. We now have at least half of the regular members on board.

All members are encouraged to join. We hope to eventually use this forum for all club electronic communications.

Just go to our website and click on the top red link for the forum for more details on how to join.

## Whitebass Review

In preparation for last May's outing, Jerry Paffenroth presented techniques for catching whitebass in the Fox River. The article in last years newsletter was a review of the trip, not the techniques Jerry presentation. I thought this article is a good review for those going on the May outing or fishing whitebass in other locationThe location Jerry talked about is the Fox River between Lake Butte des Mort and Lake Winnebago, in downtown Oskhosh. The techniques are probably appropriate for other places whitebass are common and Jerry uses some of the same techniques for catching walleyes in both the Fox and Mississippi Rivers. In the spring both whitebass and walleyes run up the Fox and Wolf Rivers to spawn. Whitebass are typically at Fremont on Mothers Day. After spawning they return downriver to Lake Winnebago and some of the upriver lakes. To get to Lake Winnebago they have to go down the short stretch or the Fox River between Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Winnebago. They usually arrive there about the time the lilacs are blooming. Jerry uses Wolf River rigs or jigs for the fish.

A Wolf River rig is a three-way rig although Jerry doesn't use a three-way swivel. For a main line Jerry use a 10-pound superline. On the end of the line he attaches a snap swivel. He ties about a six-inch, six-pound monofilament dropper to the swivel and attaches a bell sinker to it. He then adds about a two-foot leader of monofilament or fluorocarbon to the snap and attached a lure to the end.

A single fly can be attached to the end of the leader or you can tie a loop in the leader and fish with two flies, one attached to the end and one attached with a short dropper to the loop. Jerry didn't mention it but it might work to attach a minnow to one part of the rig and a fly to the other. You can also tie the fly directly to the line with a palomar knot.

Jerry passed out some examples of bucktails at the meeting. They are simple to tie and Jerry doesn't think color is all that important. I know Jerry uses the fly rig when fishing walleyes off the barge at Genoa on the Mississippi River.

*Continued next page*



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## Yahara Fishing Club

The rig is cast upstream and the sinker hopped with gentle twitches along the bottom, usually in about six-to-nine feet of water. Jerry provided a map of likely spots to look for whitebass in the Fox River. A second technique is to jig with an ultralite rig and small jigging lures like a Rattletrap, Zip, or a Champ spoon. Jerry also uses small, white marabou crappie jigs (one-sixteenth ounce size, white or pink heads) but has found these work better for Lake Mendota whitebass than Fox River whitebass. If fishing Lake Mendota look for fish in Warner Bay in 17 to 35 feet of water in the early summer and troll in the prop wash. When fishing Lake Mendota or the Fox River watch your electronics to look for schools of fish.

You also have a good chance of catching a walleye in this stretch of the Fox River. Jerry recommends leeches or night crawlers for walleyes. These can be fished on quarter ounce jig heads (hook leeches once through the sucker). You may want to try trolling for walleyes in Lake Butte des Morts or Lake Winnebago with a crawler harness and either planer boards, walking sinkers, or snagless sinkers. There is no size limit on walleyes on the Winnebago chain of lakes but know the difference between a walleye and a sauger because sauger are much more protected. There are plenty of snags in the lakes and in the Fox River so bring plenty of tackle. If you aren't getting snagged you are probably fishing in the wrong place. There is no bag limit on whitebass in the Winnebago chain and fish typically run between 12-and-18 inches. Whitebass are good eating, especially in the spring when the water is still cold but bring ice to keep the fish in good condition. They also have just about the right oil in the flesh to make them a good fish for smoking.

Most members know Jerry so if you have a question give him a call.

## From the Discussion Forum

To join see page 3.

April 30, 2012

I got an unexpected chance to get our fishing this weekend. My son owed a buddy for taking him Turkey hunting so the three of us planned to go try Lake Poygan with the info that Dave Berg gave us at D&S but Mitch figured the travel times would eat into the fishing too much so we headed to Lake Wisconsin.

We started out going after walleye and sauger up in the river. Caught about a dozen shorts, 2 slots and two 15/5" cookie cutter males that will be joining us for dinner this week. We found the fish on the breaks on the inside of turns where there was a little less current. The fish were great at stealing minnows but half a crawler on a bottom bouncer did the trick.

The boys wanted to try bass fishing so we started pitching to cover and when the wind picked up headed for areas where we were a little more sheltered. While they were pitching all kinds of junk I was pitching a crappie minnow on a plain hook under bobber or a 1/16 ounce jig with a 3" twister tail.

Eventually we found some crappies and it seemed like we had the best luck on them in water 53-54 degrees and out of

Continued page 6.

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# YFC Kids Fishing Day

The Yahara Fishing Club in Madison, WI will host their annual Kids Fishing Day at the Warner Park Shelter on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 8am to 12pm. This is a wonderful family event put on by a great organization. We hope you can make it.

The first 300 kids will get a free rod/reel combo. If they bring their own combo, they will receive a free tackle box. Live bait will be provided free of charge along with expert instruction by members of the club.

Back by popular demand will be NPAA member Greg Karch who will present "Fishing Basics" at 10:30am. A free lunch will follow at 11:00am. Hot dogs, chip etc. will be served by club members at the shelter. After lunch a variety of door prizes will be awarded.

Keep in mind that June 2 is part of the DNR Free Fishing Weekend so adults will not need a license to fish with their kids.

The Yahara Fishing Club puts on one of the largest events in the Midwest, but they couldn't do it without the following sponsors: WalMart, NPAA, FinTech Tackle, Gander Mountain, Pure Fishing, Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance, Dick Smith Bait and Tackle and D & S Bait, Tackle and Archery.

**Members should try to get there by 6:00 am.  
Lunch is 11:00 AM, and we have to be out by 1:30 pm.**

Contact: Jim Kloth -- 608-635-0116 or Duffy Kopf -- [ljkopf@tds.net](mailto:ljkopf@tds.net)



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YFC Forum, continued

the wind so that our bait didn't move too fast. For the most part the fish were really finicky until about 4PM then it seemed like the females moved in and they bit hard. We kept enough for Mitch's friend to have a nice fry.

There were a lot of pike hanging around the crappie. We bought 6 or 7 and had several bit offs. I actually caught a 24" that had two of our hooks stuck in its mouth.

I expected the day to be bust when we switched our plans at the last minute but it was just the opposite. I wish we had gotten off the water about a half hour sooner and gotten the cover on the boat. Now I will have to try to get it dried out.

Chris Spierings

April 23d

Dove Lake Mendota Saturday afternoon. Lake temps were from 51 to 54 off of 2nd point. Visibility was 10 to 15 feet. Only saw one large smallmouth and a smaller unidentified fish. Lots of green weeds starting to pop up on the bottom. Marked lots of fish out deeper in 45 fow but did not take time to identify. Marked another large school off of picnic point 15 to 20 feet down in 35 fow. Got the camera down and of course they were carp. If anyone wants to see some perch there were hundreds of them along with some walleyes and bluegills below the locks at tenny. Saw one guy catching a few bluegills casting over to the sheriffs pier above the locks.

mark.haberman

April 14th

Well i guess i was the only that wanted to go fishing today. Fishing could have been a little better but i did catch 6 walleye and sauger all short and about a dozen sheeps head and 4 white bass. Sure beats helping the wife paint the bedroom.

Richard Bee

Apr 1st:

Went from Fish Camp Park on Kegonsa up the Yahara a bit to a slew on the left. Caught a lot of small fish - crappie, gills, perch, sunfish, some kind of chad? Then went up the river to the last docks on the west bank and had all the goodsized bluegills you could want next to an anchored pontoon boat.

PAST OUTING TO LAKE WISCONSIN AND UPCOMING OUTING – WHITE BASS ON THE FOX

The Lake Wisconsin outing was fun – on Thursday we had nice weather, good company and a lot of fishing. Unfortunately very little catching, just a few Sheepshead reported. The highlight of the trip was me running aground (my navigator shall remain anonymous), but thanks to Phil James and company we got a tow off the sandbar or I'd still be there. On Saturday (due to questionable weather), the only show was Richard Bee who did catch Walleyes, Sauger, and Sheepshead at the mouth where the WI. river enters Lake Wisconsin. Richard followed up about a week later and caught more fish although all were short. See his posts in the Yahoo YFC site

Looking ahead to Saturday, May 19th, we will head up to Oshkosh for the White bass run. With the unusually warm spring it's hard to say if we will hit the peak of the run, but with the recent cool down its quite possible we will hit it right. This will be a one day trip with a rendezvous lunch (deli meats, cheeses, condiments, bread, roll your own sandwiches and desserts provided) about noon in the Rainbow Park shelter. This will be pass the hat (about \$5) and beverages will be BYO.

At last springs' outing some folks had 50 plus fish while others only had a few depending on where in the river you were fishing. These were all very large White bass. We will have an update on action, lures, bait, etc. at the May 8th meeting.

Because we will be car and boat pooling, I will have a signup sheet at the May meeting so our non boaters can get hooked up (no pun intended). It will also be helpful in planning food quantities so no one goes hungry.

Place to Meet and caravan up to Rainbow Park: Dorn Hardware lot off of Hyw. 151 and Hyw. 19

Time: Leaving promptly at 5:30 am on Saturday, May 19th

Return: After lunch, or you can stay and fish the afternoon

Hope to see you there,

Tom K

## Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

I accompanied club member Don Hammes to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's Annual meeting April 13-15<sup>th</sup> in Stevens Point. I went as a delegate from the YFC, while Don is a board member. The agenda was largely focused on hunting and conservation rather than fishing, but was quite interesting.

Friday night there was a presentation from two staff of the Wisconsin Green School Network. There are many Wisconsin schools that are integrating outdoor conservation into their general curriculums. The projects included wood lot management and creating recreation areas.

On Saturday DNR executive assistant Scott Gunderson gave the keynote address. He reviewed several hot topics the agency faces, including the recent discovery of a CWD deer near Shell Lake. He called the three-month delay between when the suspected head was set in for analysis and its examination inexcusable.

There was a presentation by Gary Alt, one of the national deer herd experts hired by the Governor, who said that the WDNR needed to improve its communications with the hunters. The current rules are causing a large reduction of older bucks. Another presentation was by the WDNR on Wolf management, who are preparing to manage an annual hunt. Finally, at the Awards Banquet, Don received a plaque "For Distinguished Service and Dedication to the Wetlands Committee and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation". Don was wetland committee chair for seven years

Tom Raschke

## Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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*An Organization to Educate, Protect and Propagate the Interests of All Fishermen in the Yahara Basin Area  
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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, May 8th**, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Rr. & Lakeside St.)  
The Board Of Directors meet at 6:00 pm, The **General Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm.**

Speaker: Dave Rowe on Wisconsin River Walleye

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### May Events

May 8, Monthly meeting at 7 p.m. V.F.W. Dave Rowe, Wisconsin River walleye data  
May 19, Fox River whitebass outing,

### June Events

June 2nd - Kids Fishing Day at Warner Park.  
June 12, On-the-water meeting, Lake Mendota  
June 15, Head for Devils Lake N.D.

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

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