

Yahara Fishing Club May 2024 Newsletter

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Musky Moon Madness

By Stan Nichols

Put on your astronomer's hat, it may make you a better musky angler, at least according to Adam Oberfoell at the April YFC meeting. Feeding windows are everything in musky fishing and you have to put everything in your favor to catch big muskies. Moon phase is one thing that helps predict when a feeding window might occur and sometimes, they are very short.

Adam admits that weather conditions eclipse moon phase and other factors and he likes to be fishing when a weather front is approaching or during big winds. A new moon is the preferred phase with a full moon second and there are major and minor feeding times. You can Google fishing times to find major and minor times and they are often published in places like *In-Fisherman* magazine. You can visit in-fisherman.com to search month-to-month for the best times at specific locations. Phone apps with moon data include musky 360, MHTV, and Google play/Apple store. Major feeding times occur when the moon is overhead or underfoot, and minors occur at moon rise or moon set. It never hurts to be fishing at sunrise and sunset. The reasons for feeding windows correlating with moon phases are not understood but it

might have something to do with gravitational pull. *Continued on page 2*



Local musky expert Adam Oberfoell uses moon phases to help predict feeding windows.

A VERY TIMELY AND IMPORTANT TOPIC FOR OUR MAY MEETING

We all care deeply about the future of the sport of fishing. So what does climate change mean for it? At our May 8th meeting, UW-Madison Center for Limnology research scientist Zach Feiner will discuss climate change's effects on Wisconsin lakes and fishing. The meeting starts at 7 but arrive at 6 p.m. for a mini session by Don Golembiewski, who will share his expertise on fly fishing for bluegills and bass.

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During a full moon the brighter conditions can stimulate feeding as the muskies are better able to spot and chase prey. During a new moon the lack of moonlight creates darker conditions making muskies more comfortable and less wary, leading to increased feeding.

What I gathered from Adam's talk was that musky fishing is basically scouting. We go out and pound the water for hours and get excited if we have a strike or a follow. These may not be feeding fish, but the information is valuable. Be back at those locations when a feeding window is predicted and don't give up, either time wise or location wise. In other words, you can set an alarm for a preferred feeding time, head to the best site, and be prepared with your best lures or bait. Timing is critical. Some spots are productive only under very specific conditions. Multiple fish can be caught during a short feeding window. Stay on a good spot. Success comes when you realize you want to be on the water when the fish are feeding.

On the other hand, if you aren't a dedicated musky angler and just want to catch a musky Adam recommends using a one-ounce spinnerbait with a single trailer hood and a grub tail. Work it along the outer edge of a weed line. Big plastics and top waters with a side-to-side wobble also work.

In a related topic there is a very interesting article in the May 2024 issue of *In-Fisherman* magazine on tracking trophy muskies and their home ranges. I recommend you read it if you are a musky angler. Home ranges varied greatly depending on the size and depth of the lake but for Leech Lake, Minnesota for instance, the home ranges of tracked muskies varied from 494 to 2,324 acres. Many muskies had two summer home ranges, a large, deep, and cool home range they use for feeding and a smaller, shallower, and warmer one they use for digestion. They may migrate between the two daily. Big Bertha, a Lake Wabigoon resident musky traveled six miles between her feeding range and digestion range on a daily basis.

Doug Galloway recorded Adam's talk, transcribed it, and used an AI tool to summarize it. It provides more details on moon phase than

can be included in this article. For those that are interested it is posted on the Members Only page (<https://yaharafishingclub.org/members-only/>) of the YFC website.



Editor's Note: Stan Nichols, author of our speaker notes (as he is most months), was really multi-tasking for the April meeting. He also conducted a first-rate mini-session on how to easily and quickly make your own poppers and bluegill flies to use with your fly rod. If I had a nickel for every time we get an email in our club account from a member complimenting Stan's ability to cogently distill and summarize our speaker presentations, all I can say is, I would have a LOT of nickels. The next time you see Stan, thank him in person for his consistent and reliable speaker notes (not to mention his other volunteer efforts for the club). – *John Pribek*

Notes from the President

By Phil James

Well here we are at our last indoor meeting of the spring, so I hope you have all had a chance to get out and enjoy the weather, and maybe even lucked into a few fish. Starting in June we will be meeting on the water for the summer months to share some meals and time on the water, so plan on coming out for those.

Everything on my boat kind of came to a head this year so I have done a lot of upgrading and thus re-rigging. The new trolling motor went on easier than expected, so I will finally have spot-lock to enjoy. But I also gave up after having my deep cycle batteries crap out after two years, and have made the leap to lithium batteries that are supposed to last 10. I am waiting for them to arrive and should be able to give a review by summer's end. I went with a cheaper off-brand, so we'll see. The new sonar unit didn't go so well – it didn't fit inside my windshield, so I am still pondering that. What is it they say, Bring Out Another Thousand?

At least I'm smart enough not to calculate the cost per pound for the fish I catch. I hope to see you all at the meeting next week, or at one of the great outings that Jim Pankratz has scheduled for us.



Greg Karch Is Looking for Helpers for Events in the Madison Area

Greg's Learn2FishWithUs organization will be hosting two events in the Madison area and could use some helpers. Contact him if you can help with either event:

Date: June 19th, 2024

Location: Carriage Hills Estates Park, 50 N. Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Time: 8:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Fishing Basics seminar followed by fishing.

Date: July 10th, 2024

Location: Tenney Park, 1414 E. Johnson St., Madison, WI 53703

Time: 12:45 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Take youth fishing. Education will be done the day before.

Contact Greg at greg.karch@sbcglobal.net or (920) 213-0373. A background check will be required.

Club Outings

Canada: We have a few club members that are interested in going to Eagle Lake, Ontario, Canada during late summer or early fall again. Please contact me ASAP if you're interested in going and I can get you in touch with the other club members and help organize this trip for you. Last year several club members caught their personal best walleye or muskie, maybe this year it's your turn.

Madison area shore fishing: April showers are over so warmer weather and water temperature will bring in lots of panfish to the shallows. Let's get some club members together to hit some of our known shore fishing spots and use area fishing reports to catch bluegill, crappies and more. Check or invite club members on our Facebook page and also look for more opportunities in upcoming emails. Tentative club date is Tuesday, May 14th in the afternoon.

Take a club member fishing: With the opener this weekend May the 4th be with you as you

use your Jedi training for good to take a club member fishing with you. Don't let the dark side win! Catch some fish, have some fun and post it on our club Facebook site or send me the pictures so we can put it in for you or in our newsletter.



Clement's Fishing Barge, Genoa: The walleye spawn is over but now the better post spawn bite is on! Smallmouth bass are in big and bluegills and other panfish are showing up too! And don't forget that you may tussle with sturgeon, a paddlefish and so much more. Let's go Friday, May 10th but other dates are possible too. Cost is \$25 for adults and only \$5 for kids 5-15 years old. This is a great shore fishing opportunity to fish in a prime location that would normally need a boat to get to.

Port Washington Coho and Steelhead charter fishing: June 7th and 13th are dates we have reserved with Captain John of Iverson Sportfishing. Fill your coolers with coho and steelhead and maybe even tangle with a lake or brown trout. Contact me ASAP as these spots will fill quickly. We will have six spots available on each date with the trip rate costing just under \$100. Yes, you need a Great Lakes trout stamp along with your regular license to fish. We currently have six people wanting to go between the two dates so hurry before all the spots fill up!

Big Bay de Noc: Stay with us at the Nahma Inn as we go after pre-spawn smallmouth, hopefully catch lots of them and get you a 20"+ fish! This is one of our best trips of the year and one you won't want to miss. The water temperature dictates the spawn and this could be an early year. The main club date will be set for May 17-19 but anytime in May is possible for you and other club members. Currently we have several members going at different times during the month so chances are there is a time that will work for you!

Sturgeon Bay King Salmon Charter: We have Sunday July 21st and Monday Aug. 19th reserved with Captain Dean Gordon of Hooked Up Sportfishing for you to fish the pristine waters of Door County. Bring your cooler and start lifting weights as you will be fighting 20+ lbs king salmon for a trip you won't forget. So far we have six club members signed up between both dates and need another six to fill up each charter. The rate is around \$150 and you will need a Great Lakes trout stamp. This is a fantastic opportunity with a great crew! Sign up before these spots fill up!

Sign up for any of these outings through our club email (yaharafishingclub@gmail.com), at a meeting or by contacting me by phone or text.

Jim Pankratz (608) 709-6442

Like Fly Fishing? Don't Miss May Mini Session

At 6 p.m. prior to our May 8 meeting, Don Golembiewski will conduct a mini session on fly fishing for bluegills and bass. Just in time for some excellent seasonal fishing for those species. Likewise, if you have a few tips you'd like to share with club members on one of your favorite techniques, contact Ken Terrill (608-358-0453, ken.terrill3011@gmail.com) and set up a future mini session!

From the club's Facebook page: Spring has sprung, and some of our members are off to a good start! Clement's Barge rarely disappoints this time of year.

A screenshot of a Facebook post from the 'Yahara Fishing Club' page. The post is by Jim Paffenroth, posted 1 day ago. The text reads: "My pb 19 inch smallmouth and a 19 1/2 inch smallmouth. The barge today with Dad and David Branly." Below the text is a photo of a man in a red t-shirt and blue pants holding two large smallmouth bass. The post has 11 likes, 2 comments, and has been seen by 84 people. A comment from Jeffrey Western says "Nice fish!".

Yahara Fishing Club

Jim Paffenroth
1d · 📍

My pb
19 inch smallmouth and a 19 1/2 inch smallmouth.
The barge today with Dad and David Branly.

11 likes · 2 comments · Seen by 84

Like Comment Send

Jeffrey Western
Top contributor
Nice fish!

A screenshot of a Facebook post from the 'Yahara Fishing Club' page. The post is by Richard Connor, posted on April 8. The text reads: "Tom Klein and I are home after 4 fun days fishing with my good friend Capt. Danny near Port Charlotte FL. The weather, wind and, more importantly, the fish cooperated very well for us. We caught hundreds of fish and 10 species: seatrout, sand trout, jack crevalle, pinfish, blowfish, lizard fish, snook, ladyfish, croaker, (saltwater) catfish,and a pelican 🐼. We brought home sea trout filets to add to a future fish fry! We fished next to manatees, sharks and dolphins. The dolphins were very interested in our released fish and chased other fish away." The post has a green verified badge.

Yahara Fishing Club

Richard Connor
Apr 8 · 📍

Tom Klein and I are home after 4 fun days fishing with my good friend Capt. Danny near Port Charlotte FL. The weather, wind and, more importantly, the fish cooperated very well for us. We caught hundreds of fish and 10 species: seatrout, sand trout, jack crevalle, pinfish, blowfish, lizard fish, snook, ladyfish, croaker, (saltwater) catfish,and a pelican 🐼. We brought home sea trout filets to add to a future fish fry! We fished next to manatees, sharks and dolphins. The dolphins were very interested in our released fish and chased other fish away.



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 May 8th meeting is at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes

Zach Feiner, fisheries ecologist currently working as a research scientist for the UW-Madison Center for Limnology and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, will speak on climate change's effects on Wisconsin lakes and fishing. Don't miss this timely topic! The meeting starts at 7 p.m., but arrive at 6 for a mini session by Don Golembiewski, who will discuss fly fishing for bluegills and bass.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 8th, 7 p.m.: Monthly meeting at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes (see above). Mini session starts at 6 p.m.

Early to mid-May: Club outing for pre-spawn smallmouth on Big Bay de Noc. Club members are going up at various times. See details on page 4.

Saturday, June 1st: Summer Kids Fishing Day at Warner Park

June 7th and 13th: Dates reserved for Port Washington Coho and Steelhead charter fishing (see page 4).

Wednesday, June 12th: First summer on-the-water meeting. Location and details in June newsletter and other club communications.

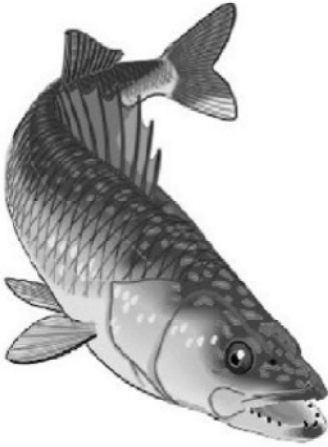
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Yahara Fishing Club
P.O. Box 259803
Madison, Wi 53725



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

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

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