Yahara Fishing Club November 2026 Newsletter

Editor: Tom Raschke tomraschke50@gmail.com http://www.yaharafishingclub.org
Assistant Editor: John Pribek honorthymusic2@gmail.com **Club email:** yaharafishingclub@gmail.com

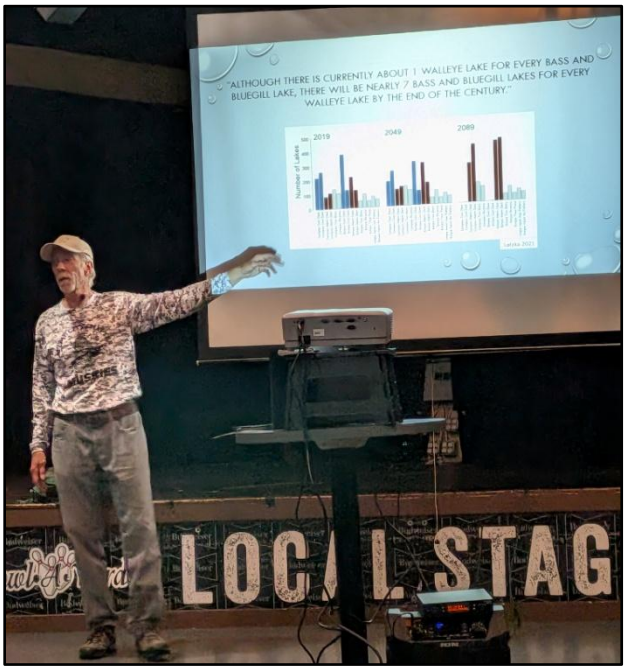
Are Wisconsin Fish Going to Be in Hot Water?

By Stan Nichols

According to Keith Reopelle and most climate scientists the answer is yes. Keith is a wildlife ecologist and an environmental communicator with over 30 years of experience. He is also an angler with a passion for musky fishing.

One question is what impact will this have on Wisconsin? There is economics. It is estimated that the annual economic impact of trout fishing alone in the Driftless Area is $1.11 billion. Brook trout are the species most likely to be impacted by warming stream temperatures. Wisconsin is third among all states in the number of nonresident fishing licenses sold. There is also a limited commercial fishery. Besides economics there are physical and mental health, heritage, cultural, and nutritional aspects to consider. There is also a fishing mystique associated with Wisconsin fish, especially muskies.

Over eons of time there have been numerous climate changes both warmer and colder. These changes have been gradual compared to the acceleration of the present warming trends. Species had longer periods to adapt and even then, species went extinct. We no longer have wooly mammoths, saber tooth cats, or giant beavers.



Keith Reopelle took on a tough subject at the club's October meeting.

Story continued on page 2

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR A CONSERVATION WARDEN? THE NOVEMBER 11 MEETING GIVES YOU YOUR CHANCE.

Wisconsin Conservation Warden Jake Donar will be our guest speaker on Nov. 11. Jake can give you a DNR perspective on the issues affecting the outdoor sport we all love. Join us at 7 p.m. on Nov. 11 at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes, 2121 E. Springs Drive, Madison.

Wisconsin trends show that average temperature has increased by three degrees since 1950. Ice duration on Lake Mendota has decreased by a month in the last 100 years. What does the future hold? Days above 90 degrees will triple and nighttime temperatures above 70 degrees will quadruple. Ice seasons will be shorter. There will be more and bigger rain and snow events.

What are some of the impacts on Wisconsin fish?

– With warmer stream temperature 68% of brook trout streams and 32% of brown trout streams will become too warm to support these species.

– Summer water temperatures above 77 degrees triple the mortality of catch and release muskies so musky fishing will be limited during the heat of summer (most musky fishing above 70 degrees is not recommended). Some preferred forage species for muskies like whitefish and ciscoes will become nearly extinct.

– The phenology of walleye spawning will be disrupted. As ice out times vary both earlier and later from average predicts the success of the walleye spawn. Walleye fry depend on zooplankton and plant cover to be available at the right time to successfully survive.

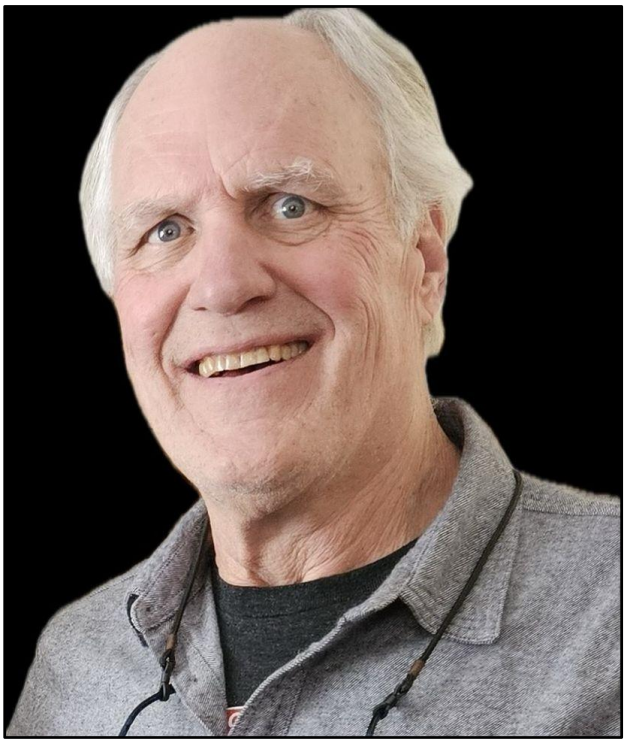
– As water temperatures increase above ideal for growth and appetite declines, and illness and infection increase.

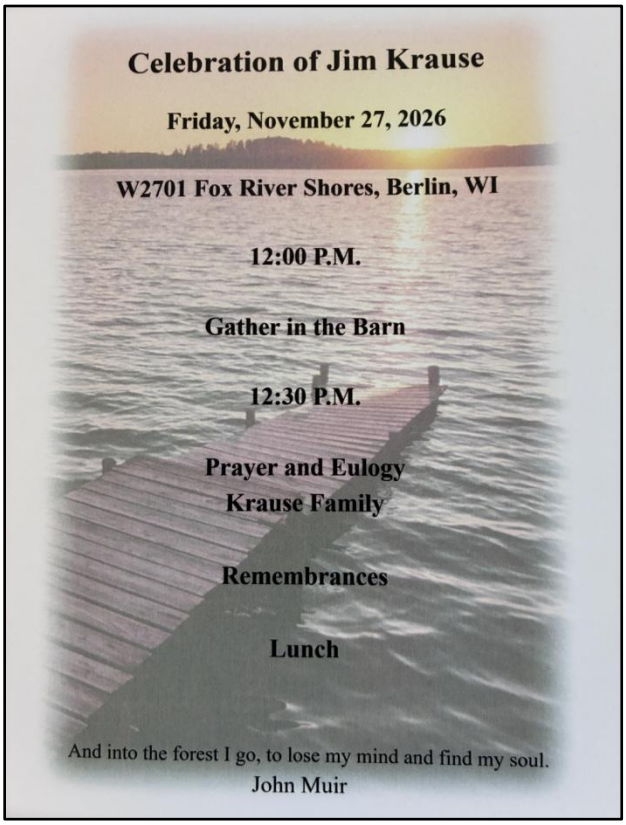
Presently Wisconsin has an even match of cold-cool water (perch, musky, walleye, trout) lakes and warm water (bass, bluegill) lakes. This ratio will change to about seven bluegill-bass lakes to one perch-walleye lake. Warmer water temperatures are more prone to oxygen depletion and eutrophication.

Climate change is a global issue but personal choices, however small, can help make a difference. Being energy efficient and restoring shorelines to natural habitat can make a difference.

Celebrate the Life of Jim Krause

From his earliest days in the Yahara Fishing Club, Jim Krause was a standout member and a great friend to many of us. Celebrate his life with his family on Nov. 27. See details below.





To see the full obituary for Jim, go to https://www.taylorstinewaid.com/obituaries/james-krause God bless, Jim, you will be greatly missed.

DON'T FORGET: Holiday in Lights Setup on Wednesday, Nov. 11

On the morning of Nov. 11, the same day as our next club meeting, YFC members will be helping put up the Holiday in Lights display at Olin Park. This is a major fundraiser for the club and we only have to work around six hours or less to receive $1,500. The more club members we have participating, the faster the work goes. By helping you get fed breakfast and lunch provided by Holiday in Lights.

If you're able to help, we will begin in the Olin Park parking lot. The time to work is from 7:30 a.m. to around 1 p.m., but arrive whenever you can! We can use as many people as possible. Please contact Gerald King (608-513-8573; 18kingerald21@gmail.com) with your name and the hours you can work. Bring work gloves, wrenches, and hammers if you're able. And if it's at the last minute you find out you can help, just show up! Thanks!

Fall Club Outings

By Jim Pankratz

Fall Salmon Outing

We will be chasing salmon in the Milwaukee Harbor, Port Washington, Racine Harbor, and the Lake Michigan tributary rivers. We will try jigging the gaps or throwing cranks or using slip bobbers in the shallows. With medium action rods, hang on for a battle you won't forget! Let's make a first attempt going to Milwaukee Harbor the weekend of November 7-8 with later options still possible.

Tenney Park Breakwall YFC vs. Edgewood High School Fishing Team Outing

This shore fishing outing is a Fall Classic targeting walleyes and northerns. We're taking it to the next level with a little friendly competition and hope to "school" the high schoolers! The bite is going on right now and will last until the lake freezes. Let's plan on having a tournament style format with all entries photographed between November 6th-9th. Our formal outing will be Friday November 6th starting at 4:30 p.m. but you can fish any of the four days. Please send me pictures of your catch ideally with a length measurement. Your pro tips are to use light jigs 1/16 to 3/16 ounces with darker colored swimbaits and as slow as possible reeling. Suspended jerkbaits also work great with slow reeling and pauses. Try Husky jerks, shallow Shadow Raps, Mavericks and similar.

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

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

Jim Pankratz (608) 709-6442



The walleye bite at Tenney Park is on! This 20.5-incher was caught on Oct. 22. Let's get out there on Nov. 6th-9th and see if we can win this year's Fall Classic! ☺ *– John Pribek*

ANOTHER DON'T FORGET: Bring Your Medication Bottles to Upcoming Meetings

The medication bottles will come in very handy at our kids fishing events. We have about 100 already! Thanks! – Kim Galloway

Bowfin? They're Nothing to Woof At

By John Pribek

Many of you might remember Glenn "Big Dog" Robinson, whom the Milwaukee Bucks made the first overall pick in the 1994 NBA draft. He had one of the most distinctive nicknames in professional sports. Well, that moniker applies equally well to this Big Dog caught by Jim Kusuda. "I got out fishing on the Mississippi on my birthday," Jim conveyed. "Normally I'm a cat person but got a doggie."



This impressive specimen got me thinking again about the much-maligned bowfin (aka dogfish), one of the truly more interesting critters to swim these local lakes. I caught my first one at Whalen's Grade about 10 years ago, a big, tough fighter that I thought for sure was a good-sized northern until I got it in the net. I had no idea what the heck it was. Not knowing any better, I lipped it to get the hook out (it had engulfed a wacky rigged Senko), and somehow managed to do so without ending up in urgent care. Later on, once I Googled the fish and realized what I had caught, I read that lipping a bowfin is about the dumbest thing a person can do, as they have numerous large, sharp teeth.

I knew already from that catch that they are first-rate fighters, and the internet also taught me they are in fact grade-A predators. Hook into one of these and hang on. They'll hit all your artificials like nobody's business. But the story just gets more fascinating. Here's what Wikipedia teaches us about this unique creature:

"It is regarded as a relict, being one of only two surviving species of the Halecomorphi, a group of fish that first appeared during the Early Triassic, around 250 million years ago. The bowfin is often considered a *living fossil* because it has retained some morphological characteristics of its early ancestors. It is one of two species in the genus Amia, along with Amia ocellicauda, the eyespot bowfin. The closest living relatives of bowfins are gars." They're native freshwater fish that should never be confused with invasive snakeheads.

A few more nuggets about the brawny bowfin: Like gars, bowfin are bimodal breathers – they have the capacity to breathe both water and air. They can break the surface to gulp air, which allows them to survive hypoxia that would be lethal to most other species. (Who knows, maybe dogfish will be the aquatic inheritors of a warming planet.) The bowfin is long-lived, with ages up to 33 years reported.

Here's my favorite: Put a slab of bowfin on the grill and it might start hopping around. Because bowfin have incredibly resilient muscle tissue and peripheral nervous systems, their muscles can experience intense, involuntary spasms

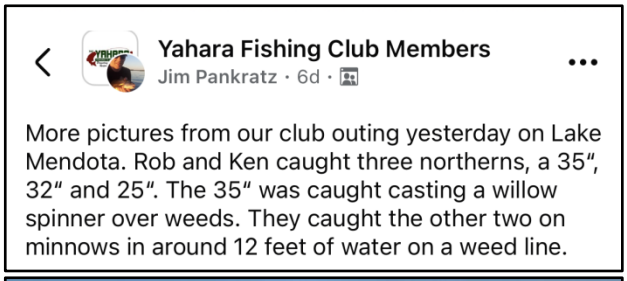
when exposed to high heat or salt, even though they are definitely dead. This can cause a filet to violently flip, thrash, or bounce right off the grill. Now that'll get your attention!

Probably the reason bowfin aren't more highly prized is that they're not generally considered good eaters. But not everyone agrees with that notion, as many folks down south regard bowfin meat as quite tasty if kept cold and processed quickly. A few years ago Lee Tauchen on his YouTube show devoted several episodes to chasing the dogged dogfish, which he considers a greatly underrated sport-fishing target. I'm inclined to agree. Perhaps not the prettiest swimmer out there, but big, mean, hard-fighting predators – what's not to love?

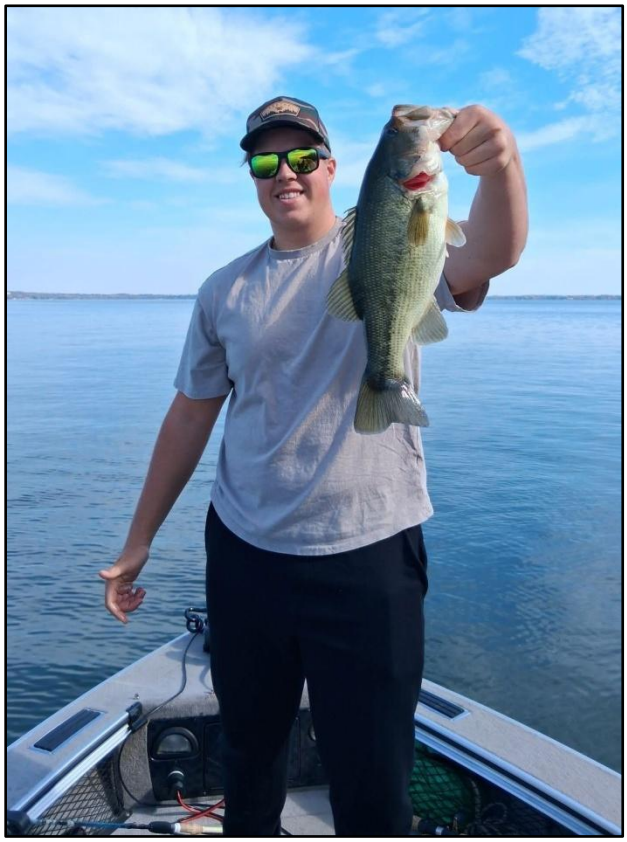
So the next time you catch of one these prehistoric marvels, show it respect and, as is the tradition with some bass fisher people, maybe even give it a little kiss before returning it to the water. Just watch out for those chompers!



From the Club's Facebook Page: Oct. 25 Outing on Lake Mendota







Bass were in the mix too!

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 November 11th meeting is at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes

Our featured speaker is Wisconsin Conservation Warden Jake Donar. You know he'll have some great stories. Don't be shy with your questions! Join us at 7 p.m. on Nov. 11 at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes (2121 E. Springs Drive, Madison).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Nov. 6 through 9: Tenney Park Breakwall – YFC vs. Edgewood High School Fishing Team Outing (see details on page 3)

Wednesday, Nov. 11: Holiday in Lights setup beginning 7:30 a.m. (details on page 3)

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.: Monthly meeting at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes (see above).

December meeting will feature our holiday potluck at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes. Stay tuned for more event details soon. Who will win the fishing contest categories this year?

(Editor's note: At all upcoming club events, impromptu discussion of the WORLD SERIES CHAMPION MILWAUKEE BREWERS will not be discouraged. At least not by me. ☺)

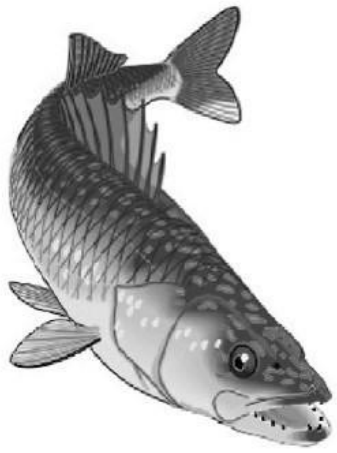
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Yahara Fishing Club
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Madison, Wi 53725



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

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