



  
**September  
2007**

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## The Real Joy of Fishing

By Ken Worden

What is the REAL joy of fishing? All of us have at one time or another asked ourselves this question. All of us enjoy the out of doors experiences fishing provides us. We watch the mother duck paddle past our boat followed by her brood of twelve chicks. We marvel at the majestic bald eagle effortlessly soaring over us as we cast our lures. If we are lucky, we experience a doe and fawn sneak through the brush for a drink at the water's edge. The sunset is never more gorgeous than witnessing it from a boat while fishing. Is this the real joy of fishing?

Or is it the relationships we develop with the friends we enjoy sharing the same passion we have? We page through mountains of fishing catalogs throughout the winter and debate with our fishing partners what is the best bait. We enjoy the anticipation of a future fishing trip with a friend, even though it may be weeks or even months away. We enjoy the friendly debates of who is the better fisherman. We love to place wagers on our next outing and then really rub it in when our largest walleye was 1/2" longer than our buddies. Is this the real joy of fishing?

Or is it the actual catching experience? We all enjoy seeing the slight twitches of our bluegill bobber and then watch it disappear beneath the surface as it inhales our offering. We set the hook and watch with anticipation as the slab bluegill slices sideways through the water before succumbing to the struggle. We enjoy the tap tap tap of a trout or walleye nibbling our night crawler and then the ensuing fight. We marvel at a large-mouth bass exploding on our surface bait just as the sun is about to disappear beneath the horizon. Those of us that musky fish are thrilled when the king of the fresh water inhales our offering after casting fruitlessly for two days without even having a follow. Is this the real joy of fishing?

My own answer to all of the above questions is "no". Last summer I took my five-year-old granddaughter with special needs fishing for the first time. After strapping on her little life vest and showing her how to reel, we motored out to a weed edge to try to tempt some unsuspecting bluegills her offerings. It wasn't long before her bobber disappeared

and we told her to start reeling. With all her might, she turned the handle as instructed and she landed her first trophy. (It was at least 4" long). She repeated this sequence three more times landing two more bluegills and a perch. All four of her trophies were about the same size. She then proudly announced she had enough to feed her whole family; her mother, dad, sister and herself. We then followed that experience with buying ice cream cones to celebrate her catch when she said, "Bumpa, can we go fishin' again some time?" Now that's the real joy of fishing!!

### What's Inside:

VHS Update - It's now in Ontario. Page 3.

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The October meeting - See "A Trip To Wawang", Page 5.

Eric Olson asks for members to help work on a plan to clean up the Highway 113/Yahara River area. Page 7.

YFC August On-the-water meeting



Jim Zegers recounts: I counted 20 in attendance. I understand there was some success on larger fish caught and released. We polished off all the brats; Paul and I did the grilling. It was a great time, and great weather.

Take An Adult Fishing Tournament



Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> was the 6th annual "Take an Adult Fishing Tournament". Many local and national companies helped make this a successful event for families and children. I'd like to thank all of you who helped make this tournament possible and such a great success! The weather was great and the kids and their families caught some nice fish. The big bass were all successfully released. Remember, the most important thing is getting children on the water at an early age so that they get hooked on fishing! There were over 275 participants this year.  
Gary Engberg

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## Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Cases Confirmed in Ontario

OTTAWA, ONTARIO, Aug 22, 2007 (CCNMatthews via COMTEX) --

The Government of Canada today announced that the Great Lakes strain of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia has been detected in fish from Hamilton Harbour and the Thames River in Ontario. These two findings mark the first detections of the disease in 2007 in Canada.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia is an infectious viral disease that can cause illness and death in fish, but does not affect human health. Fish were initially tested by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the University of Guelph before Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia was confirmed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

These findings fall within the Ontario ministry's identified management zone for the disease. Therefore, no changes are planned to existing Ontario live fish movement controls implemented in early 2007. Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia has been detected in the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes basin since 2005.

The Government of Canada, in collaboration with the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, is currently conducting a surveillance program to better understand the geographic distribution of the virus and affected species. To date, fish from six sites in Ontario and Quebec have been tested, and no additional cases of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia have been detected. The results of this program, once analyzed, will help guide actions that federal and provincial governments may take to further manage the disease.

A similar, complementary surveillance program is also underway in the United States to provide a complete picture of the presence of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia in the Great Lakes basin.

A full report of 2007 Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia findings from the joint federal-provincial surveillance program will be released in the fall. This program is expected to continue for the next two years. The two provinces will continue to collect fish in the fall of 2007 with the collaboration of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to collect additional samples with provincial funding from the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

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Notes From the Prez...

Rain, rain, go away. Boy, this has really goofed up the month of August. August is usually pretty good for Muskie, but not this year. I hope the no wake rule is taken off soon so my boat doesn't get rusty. Hopefully the weather is decent this weekend.

The August "On the Water" meeting was a good time. I tilted my motor up and ran my boat right into the sand by the picnic tables. The food was great and the drink was cold. After the meeting and social time, Jack Hurst and I went out to catch some white bass for the fish fry (yes, weather cancelled that also). Jack did the bulk of the catching until it really started to get dark. We laughed a lot and had a good time.

Elections for the Board of Directors will be held at the October meeting. I had mentioned to some people that this would be in September, but I looked it up. You still have time to nominate people for the board. We have a bunch of openings and we need quality people. Bring the names to the next meeting or let me know (849-7245 or [ljkopf@tds.net](mailto:ljkopf@tds.net)) beforehand.

I will also be taking names in nomination for the Pete Froland Award, which will be awarded in Jan. These nominations must be accompanied by a paragraph or two about why you think that person is qualified to receive this award through their contributions to the Yahara Fishing Club.

I haven't heard much feedback on our website. The feedback I received I will act on. Seems most of you are very satisfied with it at this point. Good job Jayne.

The September meeting at the VFW at 7:30pm puts us back into "normal mode". I enjoyed the summer meetings. Everything is better when it is outside. September's meeting will be your last chance to give me some

feedback on how these meetings where conducted. Again, if nothing much is said, we (BOD) have to assume that it was a good thing. Positive feedback is also accepted.

If you have any ideas on how our committee structure could be changed, please let me know. I have some ideas for the BOD on additions, subtractions and changes. If you like everything exactly as it has been for a while, please let me know that also. I believe in change for the better, not change for the sake of change.

Too bad the fish fry had to be cancelled. I'm sure Dave Dahl was also disappointed.

The next meeting's speaker is Travis Richardson who will be discussing fishing for northern pike and Muskie this fall. Should be a good one. Travis does a good job sharing information with the fishing public in the Madison area. Bring somebody along to the meeting who is not a member of YFC. They may not want to be a member, but maybe they will! Looking for new members never stops.

Hey! Do you want to organize an outing? We need to keep these going. You can learn a lot (this from the feedback I received from people at Eric Olson's outing in June), and have a great time with good people. Let me know if you would be willing to do this. We have a sheet with a checklist of what you need to do. Just let me know. It's not so hard and it doesn't have to be a lot of work.

Looking ahead at my calendar, the fishing contest ends on 11/30. It is not too late to register for the contest. The entry form is on our website. Any questions, ask Rick Lane.

I will conclude this column with the fact that I am very impressed with how your Board of Directors have risen to the occasion. They have been functioning short-handed for a while now (we will take care of that with the election in October). They have stepped up to the plate and got the jobs done that needed

doing. Please thank them for the great work they have completed. If you don't know all of the Board Members, I will again introduce them to everyone at the next meeting. Try and get to know them all. They are all good people.

Get out there and fish!

Fishing Season Never Ends  
Duffy Kopf - Prez



The Prez in Wyoming

## A Trip to Wawang

Our October speaker is Tas Kaliska, 27, a fishing guide raised on Northern Ontario's Wawang Lake. My wife Mary and I have been to her lake twice. We were fishing with Tas in a remote corner of Wawang this July and found out she is traveling to Madison for a YFC presentation. We were surprised to find our common connection with YFC. That evening, we got more surprises. I hauled in a 37 inch Northern and Mary hooked a 27.5 inch Walleye. I'm excited to hear Tas speak. She is an expert guide on a great fishing lake.

### Wawang What?

I heard about Wawang Lake 5-6 years ago at a Madison Fishing Expo booth. I saved the resort's brochure because Wawang Lake looked more remote and different than other Canada lakes I've been to. Mary and I finally got a chance a chance to travel there and check it out a few years later.

Our first time at Wawang was in mid-August '05. We had blue skies and windy weather then. It limited our fishing somewhat. The walleye were scarce after our first couple of days. We caught northernns however, until we had sore arms. This year '07 we were at Wawang from July 28 to Aug 3. Fishing was good. We had Tas as our guide on two different evenings. She's professional and knowledgeable. We were always onto fish. She loves Northernns, the bigger the better.

### The Lake

Wawang Lake is about 5000 acres with areas as deep as 120 ft. There are lots of bays and islands with a diverse fish habitat. The Wawang Lake Resort is the ONLY thing on this lake. The lake is very isolated, located 140 miles northwest of Thunder Bay, Canada, a north-shore Lake Superior city. The closest town is Upsala on Canada highway 17. Wawang Lake is headwaters of an Arctic watershed which flows all the way to Hudson Bay. The lake does not contain Musky or Smallmouth because of its watershed but, wow, does it have plentiful Northern and Walleye.

Wawang's bottom structure makes you feel at home. There is a mix of sand bars, deep and shallow weed beds (cabbage!), boulders and rock bars. It's very similar to the structure you find in WI lakes. I have enjoyed fishing this more-familiar Wawang structure than some other Canada lakes with mostly rock-shelf bottom.

The Wawang Northern Pike are monsters. There are lots of them caught in the 30-45 inch range with some 50 inchers taken each year. You can hook many 24 - 28 inch Northernns for a meal. Fillet the Y-bones and the meat is better than Walleye. (I had trouble believing that at first.) Lots of Walleye are caught too. We were able to hook many 15-18 inch fish this year along with Mary's 27.5 inch and my 24-inch walleye. Trolling for huge Northernns is an added bonus. Baits like a reef-runner work well. Tas pre-

By Al Schwoegler

fers the 8" swimming Joe Bucher baits. (Wouldn't you know, a WI designed lure works best!) The resort encourages catch and release of big fish to keep the fishery as wonderful as it is now. Although Ontario fishing regulations allow you to bring back a trophy, you are encouraged to take photos and release the "big ones". They even furnish digital cameras to be sure you capture the photo of your big fish so a taxidermist can make you a replica.

### The Loons

Some of you know I'm a volunteer & speaker for WI Loon-Watch. In the early 90's I gave a loon presentation to YFC when we were hard-up for speakers. I enjoy searching out loon habitat, nests, young loons etc. Wawang Lake is a loon paradise. I estimated there were over 100 nests on the lake and about 400 loons. When not fishing, I was "looning".

### The Resort

Wawang Lake Resort, the only thing on the entire lake, is run by Ontario natives Terry and Tami Kaliska. They have owned it for 35 years. It's the next thing to a fly-in because of its remoteness. They built this place as a fishing and hunting camp by painstakingly hauling all cabin materials and a few mobile homes all the way from Thunder Bay, a 3 1/2 hour one-way trip. Amazingly, the resort has all the comforts you need right in

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the middle of the wilds. Utility electric power is at least 25 miles away so they produce their own electricity 24 hours/day from a bank of generators. All cabins have heat, bathroom and kitchen etc. They have provided all cabins with limited satellite TV. The lodge has a radio-linked Canada telephone for your use AND they have wireless internet in the lodge for your laptop or their "guest" desk computer.

There are cabins and mobile homes to rent with 1 to 4 bedrooms, 2 to 12 persons in a group. Some tent or RV camping is also available. There is an American plan with two meals per day or Housekeeping plan. We enjoy a week of American plan. Tami does a great job cooking. You will have omelets, pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, juice, toast and more for breakfast 8-10am. Supper is 5-8pm with steak, pork chops, spaghetti, walleye/northern fish fry, salad, potato, dessert and all the trimmings. It's all delicious. Shore lunch kits are available.

Fishing boats are stationed at other nearby, smaller, remote lakes too. You can drive to them (carefully). We have not wanted to fish anywhere other than Wawang but it's nice to know these remote lakes are available for additional fishing. There is a 200 acre lake adjoining the resort mechanical buildings. This is great for kids. You can go out with a rowboat there and catch 18-24 inch northern by the dozens.

The Trip

The resort is 620 miles from Madison. It takes 12- 13 hours. The route takes you through Superior/Duluth and the along the north shore of Lake Superior to Thunder Bay. To me, this is a spectacular drive and well worth pausing overnight to see the scenery. If you are a fan of casinos like my wife, there is a nice hotel and casino at Grand Portage, MN about 20 minutes south of the border.

The crossing into Canada is at Pigeon River. You will need a passport for all crossing in 2008. There was a very short wait this year and the crossing was better than we have experienced at Ft Francis/International Falls MN. We didn't need passports yet, although we had them already. The passport was appreciated by the guards in Canada and by US officers on the return trip. You will be asked some questions about the nature of your trip and about things you are bringing. Don't bring live bait, potatoes, fruit or beer/alcohol above allowed limits. On the return US trip, you may be checked for numbers of fish you are bringing back and asked if you have purchased goods in Canada. All fish fillets brought back from Canada must have a piece of skin remaining on the fillet to identify the fish. They must be wrapped so the numbers of fillets and skin are easily seen. Don't forget this!

I recommend stopping in Thunder Bay to purchase any nightcrawlers, leaches or fishing licenses you need while in Canada. Licenses are also available via mail from Ontario's 800 fishing phone number a month or more before traveling. Wawang does not have licenses. You may also pick up any supplies or beer in Thunder Bay. There is a big Thunder Bay Canadian Tire store (like Farm and Fleet) along Hwy 11/17 which has licenses and some tackle. Other shopping is nearby.

From Thunder Bay, take Canada Hwy 11 and then 17 to the Northwest. Wawang resort is 140 miles from here, up Hwy 17. The road to Wawang is Graham Road to the north off of 17. It intersects a short way past Upsala. Once you find Graham Road you have about a 32 mile drive up a gravel logging road. This takes from 1 to 1 1/2 hours depending on weather and the condition of the road. This part is tough but well worth it when you get to the lake.

I hope you can all enjoy Wawang Lake someday. Enjoy our special visit from Tas in October.



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***Email from Eric Olson to Board members***

Tonight I spoke with Robert McGuigan about the problem with shore fisherman littering around the bridges at Hwy 113 on the Yahara River. Robert is keenly aware of the problem and is very interested and motivated to work out ideas to help solve this problem. Last night he met with Kevin Conors from Dane Co. Parks, Sheriff Dave Mahoney, the owner of the Nautigal, the Town of Westport Board Chair and others to view the area and discuss how to fix this problem.

Robert is looking to the Yahara Fishing Club for support and help in developing a strategy and implementing solutions. He has support from D&S, will be working with the warden in the area, and plans to contact businesses in the area. I'm going to give him contact info for other clubs, though I doubt many will help, along with the Fishing Expo's contacts.

I know several years ago I went with Jack and Kurt Welke and others to talk about the problem. It's only gotten worse since then. There was some talk of closing the entire area to fishing, but all the parties involved do not want to go to that extreme YET.

The club has not been directly involved in a project in a while, and we have the resources (people and \$\$) to assist in something directly inline with our "mission statement" of promoting and protecting fishing rights and access.

So, what we need are some members (in addition to myself) who are willing and able to attend meetings and discuss this issue.

## Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, September 11th**, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Rr. & Lakeside St.)  
The Board Of Directors meet at 6:15 pm, The **General Membership meeting starts at 7:30 pm.**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### September Events

September 11th 2007, Monthly meeting @7:30 pm  
Speaker: Travis Richardson, Fall Northern and Walleye

### October Events

October 9th Monthly meeting @7:30 pm  
Speaker: Tas Kaliska, Lake Wawang

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

President - Larry Kopf.....849-7245  
Vice President - Jeff Western .....831-1092  
Treasurer - Rick Lane.....873-5228  
Secretary - Jim Zegers/Paul Marunich

Director - Bonnie Miller.....824-9792  
Director - Paul Marunich.....219-4449  
Director - Eric Uram.....233-9022  
Director - Ken Worden.....836-8904

Director - Jim Zegers.....848-6299  
Director - Jayne Meyer.....662-9374  
Director - Rick Seegers.....849-3714  
Editor - Tom Raschke.....233-6765

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