

Spraying makes lake 'a desert

W. K. George JUL 28 1978
"It's the most asinine thing I've seen," Steady Eddy was saying. "I'm just damn mad about it."

He had that Powder River look he always got when he was throwing for the Lakers and his next pitch was coming in high, tight and heavy.

"From B. B. Clarke beach to the Yahara," he continued, "there were only eight property owners that asked for the weed spraying. Eight. So they sprayed and they wiped out the whole weedline for a quarter mile."

I hadn't seen him so determined since he tied into that channel catfish out on the Westport Flats, the one that fought like a two-man submarine.

"Don't take my word for it," he said. "Check with Mike. He fished this area for three straight days and never raised a fish. He never saw a fish. And Mike's a damned good fisherman. It's a desert out there."

Steady gives DNR points for not using Diquat this year and spraying only with Aquathol but he blasts DNR's assurances that the weed kill would be limited.



Papa Hambone's Fishing Report

"Bull," he snorts. "This stuff they sprayed spread all over hell."

He looked like a pitcher staring in for his sign.

"DNR says the lake property owners have a right to spray in the lake even though they don't own the lake. Well, try spraying stuff out on your street just because you live on it."

The disbelief on his face was usually reserved only for umpires.

"If there's a law that says they can do it, then we have to change that law. How in the hell can you own something that's public? It doesn't make sense."

The Indian would have been proud of him. It was the greatest stand

since Custer. Here's your Friday fungo report:

● **LAKE MENDOTA:** Bluegills at The Hatch Cover on wax worms. Big perch between Picnic and Second Points. In 25-feet of water hellgrammites and red worms.

Northern pike and bass slow although one 10-pound pike taken off Governor's. Fish the bass with a plastic worm rigged "Texas style" and weedless.

Walleyes being caught off Dunn's Bar on leeches. Small walleyes and panfish off Tenney Park but nothing exciting.

"There's still no fishing pressure out there," Steady says. "A person could get lonesome."

● **LAKE MONONA:** Bluegills at Law Park spotty. Wax worms are best. Some real nice crappies at The Triangle. Peewee Pinkys — 1/90 of an ounce! — the ticket.

Still getting big perch off Turville Point. In 25 to 30 feet. On hellgrammites. Guys having the best luck are fishing four inches off the bottom. No more, no less. Bass are slow,

although The Old Pro Jim Thrun got one that went 4-lbs., 10-oz. A largemouth on a Tandem Spin.

Northern pike are slow too. Walleyes are all over; fish off any old point. But they're small.

Off Olin Park, perch are hitting on hellgrammites. Also on waxies and pieces of crawler. Nice size fish. In 20-30 feet. Try 20 first. In the Murphy Creek area.

The Rock Pile is producing BIG bluegills. Also some perch. Garden worms good as anything.

A lot of crappies are coming out of Squaw Bay. On pinkys, but the fish are small.

Downriver at The Bridge Road bridge, walleye fishing is good. Nightcrawlers for bait. Fishing running 16 to 20 inches. Mosquitoes only slightly smaller.

● **UPPER MUD LAKE:** Decent-sized bluegills but not a lot of them. Pieces of nightcrawler. Walleye fishing continues at The Testle. Good at night, and as Steady says, "Aren't we all?" Bait preference: Crayfish, crawlers and leeches, with crayfish accounting for biggest fish here.

● **LAKE WAUBESA:** A lot of bluegills in Hog Island area on waxies. Fishermen wading here and also picking up small largemouth bass on the waxies and crawlers.

In the Goodland Park area, perch fishing is really beginning to roll off the marker buoys. Fish pretty good size. Hellgrammites first choice. Then waxies and garden worms. They're also getting decent bluegills in same general area. Up inside the buoys on the sandflats.

Excellent bluegill fishing also at Brickston Park on wax and red worms. Great northern pike fishing at The Springs. They're throwing Daredevles and soaking suckers. Bible Camp producing perch and big crappies. Spring holes in Edwards Park area giving up northerns on Daredevles, spoons and suckers. Biggest northern by Marty Quinlan, McFarland, a 14-pounder on a sucker. Fish measured 40 inches.

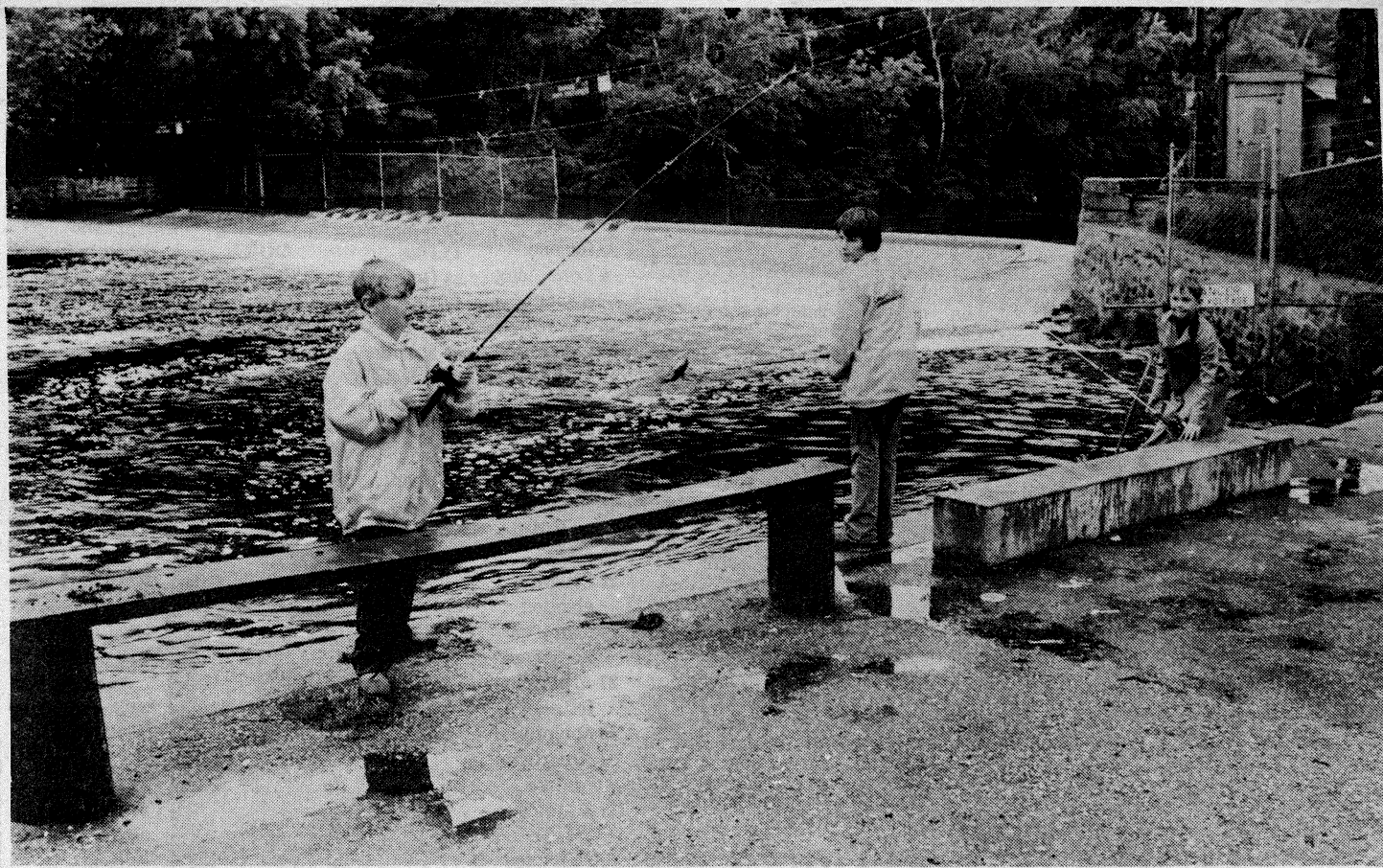
● **LAKE KEGONSA:** Perch fishing excellent at Colliday Point. Nice size hellgrammites and garden worms. Bluegill fishing getting good at the Country Club off the big weedbed. Garden worms. A lot of walleyes off the Locks area on the lake side. Yellow jigs. Early morning and evening.

Fish the Inlet for bullhead and catfish. No biggie cats but bullhead fishing "fantastic" in the evening. And you just know what Steady Eddy would say.

Overall, fishing's been pretty good, except Way Up North. "Round Lake was a bummer," The Captain reports. It rained for three days and three nights, the waves were as high as Dr. Scoop and even the minnows mildewed.

"It got so bad," The Captain concludes, "that finally the Italian Stallion quit fishing altogether and went to building an ark. Then he quit the arking too and we just sloshed down to the Moccasin Tavern and drank beer."

Some guys, Steady says, have all the luck.



—Press Connection photo by Carmie Thompson

Youngsters fish for bullheads off the Buffalo Lake dam at Montello.