

August 2024 Newsletter

Protecting the Yellow River
and its Watershed



This Saturday: Join us for a Guided Fishing Paddle

By Paul Thompson

Have you ever wondered – how is fishing on the Yellow River?

Living on the river, near Emerson Bridge, we stop to talk to most anyone that is enjoying the river in some manner. The locals and old timers all seem to have great fishing stories and fond memories of the river and the fish within. The YRPC began to wonder ourselves and it's time for all to find out!

On **Saturday, Aug 24th** you are invited to paddle and experience fishing on The Yellow River for yourself. The event is free, and we will have a \$100 “door prize.”

The paddle will be guided by Silent River Smallmouth, a guiding service provided by Roger Leef. Roger is somewhere between a local treasure and a local legend. He has been fishing the Yellow River since he was a boy, and has been a guide for many years. The finer points of fishing for smallmouth on the Yellow, and many stories about the river itself, will be shared.



And it is true!! Roger took myself and my neighbor, Mark Fenton, down the Yellow as a test along the route we will be using on the Aug 24th group paddle. We learned a lot, had a great time, and caught some nice Smallmouth Bass.

Details for Saturday: Meet us at Norman's Landing at 9 a.m. Norman's Landing is located on Norman's Landing Road, which heads south off of Gaslyn Creek Road (north and west of Hertel in Burnett County). We'll take vehicles to Whistler's Bridge at the start; shuttle vehicles will be available to take everyone back to Norman's Landing to launch. We'll paddle for approximately 2 and a half hours, depending on how good the fishing is.

Hope you can join us on Aug 24th!

So we know how many are coming, please **RSVP** at protect.yr@gmail.com or call 952-457-3224. Bring your own kayak or canoe and fishing gear.



More YRPC Paddle Trips Coming Up!

Yellow River Protection Conservancy (YRPC) has two more paddling trips yet this summer and fall. Come hear about our organization, learn about fishing or wild rice, or paddle a new stretch of the river. Here's the schedule; watch our website for further details:

- **August 24** (Saturday) Fishing the Yellow with Guide Roger Leef of Silent River Small Mouth: see more details on page 1.
- **September 7th** (Saturday) Wild Rice Paddle led by Kathy Bartilson and Kevin Hagen. Meet at the Green Valley Road Landing west of Spooner at 9:30 a.m. for a short paddle, presentation and demonstration.
- **September 21st** (Saturday) Fall Color Paddle - put in at Connors Bridge and take out at Route 35 (Yellow River) Saloon. Check our website closer to the date for final details.

So we know how many are coming, please **RSVP** at protect.yr@gmail.com or call 952-457-3224. Bring your own kayak or canoe, paddling gear, bug spray, snacks, etc.

Water Monitoring Volunteers Needed and Welcome

Water Monitoring Coordinator Arnie DeWitt is looking for monitors for the site below the dams in Danbury. Besides this site, there are many more places in the watershed where monitoring will provide good information.

You don't have to be a scientist. **Contact Arnie DeWitt at 715-520-0822 or send an email to protect.yr@gmail.com.**

Being a volunteer monitor is a great way to learn more about water quality, habitat, and stream life. It's also a morning, afternoon, or evening of fun being outside in the stream.

\$1,000 Donation Will Pay For Phosphorus Monitoring at One Sampling Site

A gift of \$1,000 will pay the cost of phosphorus monitoring equipment and laboratory work at one site for one year. Channel-choking aquatic weed growth is a problem on the lower river. It could be caused by excessive phosphorus in the river. Question is, "Where does the phosphorus come from?" Phosphorus testing at various sites can help locate the source. Help control excessive aquatic weed growth by donating \$1,000.00 (or whatever amount you wish). Designate your gift to be used for a phosphorus testing site.

YRPC Wetland Protection Seminar

Mark your calendar for November 1 in Siren

PROTECTING OUR WETLANDS
Wisconsin Wetlands Association &
Yellow River Protection Conservancy
Friday November 1, 2024
8:30 to 11 AM

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Feature Presentations

Amy Shrank University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program:
Presenting 3-year study results of the effects of Hybrid Cattail Removal Program

Tracy Hames: Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Executive Director
Speaking on Wetlands: types, importance, status, protection & care

Immersion Data Solution: Viewing the Yellow River using "iGDT"
iGDT is a paradigm shift enabling viewing wetlands with a close up 360 degree view eliminating the need for a physical presence

Zhashagiins Event Center
Siren, Wisconsin

Questions? Call or Email
952.457.3224 protect.yr@gmail.com

This Month's Quiz Question:

Do you recognize this plant?

See page 4 for more details.



For Sale: YRPC's 4.6 Acre River Lot

This is the first opportunity to purchase a beautiful riverside building site being offered for a short time to YRPC members. The property will be listed for sale to the general public in September.

The property at W7309 HWY 70 offers privacy and seclusion within a short distance of downtown Spooner. Located across the river from DNR property, development of the opposite shore is unlikely. The parcel is made up of two pieces, a one acre parcel in the Town of Evergreen and 3.69 acres in the City of Spooner. Yellow River frontage totals 360 feet. YRPC will apply deed restrictions to protect the shoreline, prevent sub-division and preclude commercial development. A beautiful, spacious building site is set aside for a family dwelling with a beautiful view of the river.

W3709 Highway 70 was purchased under YRPC's BUY-PROTECT-SELL-REPEAT program. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase and protect another watershed property.

Become a YRPC "Guardian of the River" with the "Score My Shore" Survey

Put your star on the map for river protection!

Shoreland owners are fortunate to have a tool to evaluate how our buildings and activities on the shore could be affecting the lake or river where we live. The Wisconsin Healthy Lakes and Rivers program developed the "Score My Shore" survey, patterned after a similar program in Michigan. The survey walks you through questions about the physical aspects of your lake or river property, as well as how you manage it. The tool is entirely voluntary and is not used for regulatory purposes. You can decide whether to register for an account or answer the survey questions anonymously.

The survey tool takes into account the answers provided, and returns a rating of "entry," "restoration," "enhancement," or "protection" (the most lake or river-friendly level). The immediate, on-line feedback helps landowners understand the overall rating and recommends specific projects that can help protect the lake or river.

The survey can be found at this link (<https://survey.healthylakeswi.com/>) or by searching for the Wisconsin Healthy Lakes and Rivers site. The "Score My Shore" link is on the far right at the top of the home page menu.

Earn a star on YRPC's "Guardians of the River" map! Complete the Score My Shore survey and let us know how you did by emailing us at protect.yr@gmail.com.

Donate one Month's Mortgage Payment

Just \$348 puts us one step closer to our next purchase

A \$348.00 donation (one month's payment on the W 3709 Highway 70 mortgage) will put YRPC one step closer to its next BUY-PROTECT-SELL-REPEAT purchase. Shoreland of our first purchase (see accompanying article) will be legally protected through deed requirements and the entire parcel will be listed for public sale later in September. However, until W3709 is sold, YRPC must make monthly mortgage payments of \$348.

Looking for a way to support YRPC's property protection programs? How about paying just one month's mortgage. To make a donation online or by check follow directions on the [YRPC website](#).



How to Join Us

We don't have annual membership fees, but maintain a roster of supporters and friends, and we'd love to count you in! We rely on donations throughout the year to continue our work. Donations can be made through our website at yellowriverprotectionconservancy.org.

Here are our donation categories:

- Kingfisher \$1 to \$249
- Osprey \$250 to \$499
- Eagle \$500 to \$999
- Wild Rice Guardian \$1000 to \$4999
- Sturgeon Sustainer \$5000 to \$9999
- River Keeper \$10,000 and over

We'd also appreciate your participation in our programs and projects.

Interested in working with us? Contact Phil Sylla, Conservancy President at protect.yr@gmail.com.

Our Mission is to Protect the Yellow River and its Watershed

The Yellow River Protection Conservancy will:

- protect Yellow River flora, fauna, water quality and habitat
- enhance appreciation of the Yellow River, its history and people
- realize the Yellow River's potential as an ecologically-resilient land and water corridor to help mitigate the effects of climate change
- respect the rights of private property owners and protect public lands and waters.

We'd Love to hear from You!

Yellow River Protection Conservancy's website has a spot for testimonials. We love feedback. Did you participate in an invasive species project that you found valuable? Or go on a field trip that you enjoyed? Do you strongly support one of our goals? Send us a one- or two-sentence testimonial. We'll publish all we can on our website.

Quiz Question Answer

Don't these look like fungi or mushrooms that would eventually rot away into a gooey mass?

These are commonly called Ghost Pipes, and they are actually an herbaceous, perennial, flowering plant (*Monotropa uniflora*) native to temperate regions of Asia, North America, and northern South America. After "blooming" they actually dry up into a stiff, hard stalk (shown below).



YRPC Provides Stipends to Private Landowners for Conservation Measures

At its March meeting, the YRPC Board approved a way to reward private landowners who protect the Yellow River Watershed through land conservation measures.

In the upcoming year, YRPC will provide stipends for officially-recorded deed restrictions and conservation easements as part of our "Guardians of the River" program. To qualify, these measures must assure one or more of the following: restoration or protection of natural vegetative buffers along river, lake, or stream frontage; restoration or protection of shoreline, wetland, and aquatic habitat; runoff correction or prevention; assurance of a natural scenic view from the river, etc.

This year, we are offering \$250 stipends to qualified applicants for placement of deed restrictions, and \$500 for conservation easements completed through a qualified land trust. For more information, contact us at protect.yr@gmail.com.