

# Off Broadway is always on the mark in Madison

By Sam Martino  
Special to the Lakes Edition

The bicycle craze in the greater lake region of Madison has brought a new dimension to the Off Broadway Drafthouse and eatery, 5405 Raymond Rd., on the south end of Lake Monona.

Noted for its lengthy list of draft beers and good food from lunches to evening fare, the business aims to attract more patrons from bikers pedaling around the lakes area.

With more bikers expected to travel the area from the newly built Yahara River Trail from McFarland to Madison and a future upgrade of John Nolen Drive as a scenic pathway along Lake Monona, there is more awareness of the need to cater to bikers.

Owner Joe Klinzing said he and his wife, Rita, planned their business' recent expansion to especially accommodate bikers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Klinzing said his busi-

ness will feature a service area for bikers to pump up their tires and park at least 20 bikes in racks.

"We get bikers from all over the area who stop in, including groups of 10 to 20 riders," said Klinzing.

Klinzing said the lake loop of bike trails has become a major attraction for recreation riders.

The place is especially popular during Happy Hour between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, on Fish Fry Fridays and Saturday barbecue ribs.

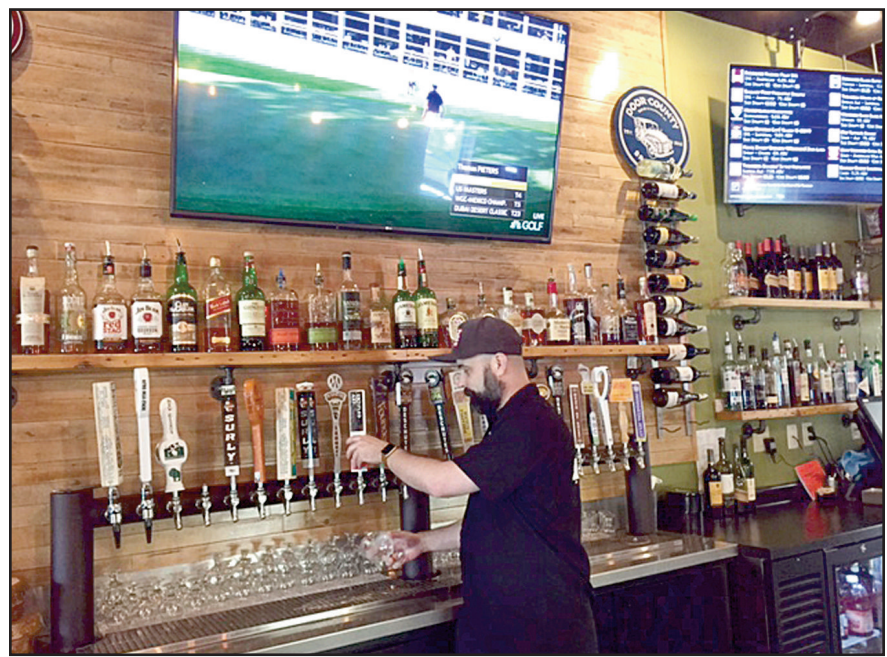
Tavern manager Chad Kersey said business picks up on weekends and on Thursday when the tavern features a different draft beer each week with an infused flavor.

"We like to do experimental things to keep it exciting," Kersey said.

The Off Broadway drafthouse once was called the Airway Tavern when the Pennco Field Royal Airport operated in the 1920s and 1930s, located at what is now South Towne.

Charles Lindbergh landed at the airport in 1927 during a visit to Madison following his historic solo transatlantic flight to Paris.

A large mural on one of the tavern walls calls atten-



Chad Kersey draws a beer from one of a series of 24 specialty beers at the Off Broadway Drafthouse in Monona near South Towne. (Photo submitted by Sam Martino)

tion to the airport history.

The Drafthouse still uses some of the names of popular drinks ordered by aviators during the period such as the cockpit and aviator.

Also noted on two large murals are photos of a one-time gaming official smashing slot machines, which were illegal in the 1940s.

Under the murals sits a series of video poker machines.

Klinzing, 65, has owned the Off Broadway location off and on since 1999.

He said he always liked the food business since he bought his first restaurant, a Taco Johns in Monona, four years after he graduated from Monona High School.

The Drafthouse business is popular during lunch hour for workers at the nearby WPS headquarters on South Broad-

way.

The tavern and eatery also features a Sunday brunch in the summer and fall when the business attracts boaters who dock at Ester Park off Waunona Way near the bike loop.

It also is a popular place for followers of New Glarus brews during the Great Taste of the Midwest when brewers show off their beers.



Off Broadway Drafthouse owner Joe Klinzing points to his business location in Monona established more than 80 years ago as the Airway Tavern, then adjacent to the Royal Airport in what is now South Towne. (Photo submitted by Sam Martino)

## In search of the big one: Fishing for Madison muskies

By John McLaughlin  
Reprint from Feb. 15  
Edgerton Reporter

There are freshwater fish, and then there is the musky. Often referred to as "The Fish of 10,000 casts" for its finicky and unpredictable behavior, the muskellunge (musky for short) is notoriously difficult to catch. They are often also the largest aquatic predator in the bodies of water they inhabit, with trophy fish sometimes growing upwards of 40 pounds and 50 inches long. With fearsome rows of sharp teeth to match their intimidating size, musky fishing, for

some, has become more of a lifestyle than a hobby.

One of these such enthusiasts is Jay Garstecki, who held a musky-fishing seminar at Edgerton's Harbor Recreation on Sunday, Feb. 12. A professional fisherman with several corporate sponsors, Garstecki regularly participates in the Professional Musky Tournament Trail (PMTT), which takes him throughout the Midwest over the course of a year to compete against other world-class anglers. He is also the host of "Operation Fishing Freedom", a new Sportsman Channel program that features the angler treating veter-

ans of the military to a day out on the water, and the president of "Take a Vet Fishing", a non-profit group that, free of charge, organizes a group fishing trip for former service men and women.

Garstecki is extremely well-versed in local musky fishing and chases the species throughout Wisconsin. One of his common haunts is the series of lakes outside of the state capital. For local musky fisherman, peak time will be here soon. "Maybe my favorite time of the year to fish the Madison chain [of lakes] is during the crappie spawn," he said. Crappie,

a smaller, black-and-white speckled fish muskellunge commonly feed on, will typically mate in Wisconsin between May and June, when water temperatures reach between 61 and 68 degrees.

During the early musky season (which opens in Southern Wisconsin the first Saturday in May), Garstecki advises anglers to use smaller lures, and a slower presentation (with the occasional burst of speed for variation). "The fish are still sluggish," he stated. While bucktails are a classic favorite among musky fishers, Garstecki says, especially in the spring, twitch baits are also an effective option.

It should be noted that all sizes are relative. A small musky lure (generally under 8 inches to fit in this category), is usually still a large bait for other species. In the fall, when fish prefer bigger offerings (often even live sucker-fish), it is common to see lures in the 18-inch range.

Perhaps the most important single technique to master is that of the figure 8. Muskies are notorious for following a bait back to the boat, only to turn away at the last second. At the end of each cast, before bringing a lure out of the water, it's important to trace a figure-8 pattern with the rod in hand. This brief change of direction will, in many instances, trigger a strike that would not happen otherwise.

While the best locations to fish are often dependent on bodies of water and specific conditions, the pro fisherman

had some general guidelines to follow. It can be productive to focus on areas of weedy cover and steep drop-offs. Like many predators, muskies will often follow their prey, thus locating baitfish species can be a key to finding a monster of your own.

Garstecki, like others on the PMTT, lives and breathes muskellunge. Part of this, however, includes respecting the fish. "I'll stop fishing for muskies when the water temperature gets above 80 degrees." He said. Warmer water is less capable of holding oxygen, and thus, especially after a tiring fight on the end of a line, muskies caught in these conditions can experience hypoxia, or abnormally low levels of

oxygen in their blood. This often leads to alarming rates of fish mortality.

Additionally, the angler recommended techniques for safely releasing fish, some that many fisherman aren't aware of. "I try to only keep a musky out of water for as long as I can hold my breath," Garstecki warned. He also believes that a reliable pair of hook cutters is a must-buy. Often, fish will begin to swallow a lure, and it is always safer to cut hooks than it is trying to remove one deeply embedded. Responsible fishing ensures that future generations will be able to chase, and maybe even catch, a musky, even if it takes them 10,000 tries.



Early morning musky fishing. (Photo courtesy of Adam Walton of Pike Pole Fishing Guide Services)


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