



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

March 2009

4th ANNUAL TRASH AND TREASURE AUCTION, APRIL 21st

by Mike Simon

Once again I have volunteered to chair our annual fundraising auction. As much as possible, the same format that has worked well in the past will be followed this year.

Help is needed in soliciting items, as well as donating or hand-crafting items your self, such as the ever popular hand-tied flies. It is important that in soliciting donations that we don't over extend our welcome by repeating visits.

So far, we have volunteers for Dorn Hardware, Orvis, DNS Sports, Gander Mountain, Wilderness Fish and Game, Pharo Marine, Inland, Wal-Mart, Cervasi Marine, and the Shoe Box. There are many others, so please check with me if you're headed some place so we can make note of it lest someone has been there already.

Steve Wall will again seek donations from the Avenue Bar, Fat Jack's, Red Robin, and the Maple Tree restaurants. There are a lot of other places that may also be willing to donate to our auction.

I'm talking with guides about trips (with help from volunteers), and firming up these commitments. As we confirm donations, we will post them on our web site.

Most important to our having a successful auction is attendance. Everyone can help by coming and bringing a guest or two. This year we've got great items up for bid, but it's only as good as the numbers of bidders present.

I will be at the March 23rd joint meeting with the Badger Fly Fishers by around 6:00 P.M. if you have any questions or suggestions.

This is the one time each year that every member can pitch in, help the club, and also have a lot of fun!

WHERE'S THE MONEY GOING?

With our fourth fundraiser coming up in April, I want to inform our members and donors how their money is spent. Over the past three years we have contributed over \$5,000 to various causes. We have contributed to the following this past year:

- The Kids' Ice Fishing Organization and Youth Conservation Days in Sauk, addresses one of our missions of keeping kids interested in fishing and conservation. This year's donation will affect over one thousand kids.
- Fishing Has No Boundaries is a program for individuals with handicaps. This is also an opportunity for members to volunteer their services.
- The River Alliance of Wisconsin keeps a watchful eye on the rivers around our state that host some great smallmouth bass.
- Finishing the Blockhouse Creek project.
- The Pine Island landing improvement project on the Wisconsin River.

We are currently looking into how we can help with the research going on with the River Assessment Project being conducted state wide. Additionally, Hunter Dorn is going to brief us at the March meeting on how we can assist with cleaning-up a section of the Baraboo River.

It's important to remember that none of this would have been possible without members soliciting and donating items. Our web site will list the many donations we received from generous guides, like Kip Vieth and Roger LaPenter, individuals who donated trips and various items, as well as many other business donors. We should have our first posting by the time you receive this newsletter.

Our auction is April 21st, so there is plenty of time for everyone to chip-in and make this year a success!

Please note the change in date for our March meeting! See page four.

DRIFTBOATING THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI

By Jerome
Pasdo



ship, the very tasty lunch at the local park, help warm the day. Of course, the fish catching had a lot to do with it, too.

The Mississippi River current was especially swift with numerous river wide rapids, large boulders, and shallow gravel bars. Kip knew where they all were and accurately maneuvered the drift boat to assure accurate casts into targeted areas.

Friendly competitiveness with my son always assures a fun outing. Having Kip do all the hard work and share his river and fish knowledge made the trip all the more enjoyable. We did it all within 45 minutes of over 2 million people. Thanks, Kip.

September 28 began with a fog impaired visibility of one block and driving on unfamiliar roads. Finally we had the much anticipated meeting with Kip Vieth at the Perkin's in Monticello.

His rig was easy to pick out from the others driving past. It appeared through the fog like a large, white banana on a boat trailer or a faded wiener mobile with the top half sliced off. This fishing trip was initiated by successful bidding for Kip's donation to our 2008 Auction.

After arranging the car shuttle, Kip, my son Jeremy, and I shoved off upstream of Monticello. Our trusted guide knows the river currents, the water temps and the likely smallmouth holding habitat.

Kip mentioned that a recent discharge from the power plant raised the water temperature and this was the area he would like to start. Two casts removed from departure and the action started. Kip always seemed to know which eddy or boulder held fish.

The circle hooks we used almost always guaranteed a quick release of the jaw hooked bait. A number of fish were between 15" and 18". The strong current and even stronger river fish always provided a battle. Somewhere between 45 and 50 smallmouth were boated on the cloudy, almost drizzly day.

The occasional periods of sun, Kip's companion-

Above: Jeremy and Jerry Pasdo in Kip's boat.
Below: Jerry with one of the trips smallies.



Editor's note: Kip will be donating another trip to this year's Trash & Treasure auction. The lucky bidder will have a choice of the Mississippi or St. Croix.

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Articles, photos, information, and calendar events for the newsletter are encouraged and should be submitted by the 1st day of the month of issue to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St., Madison WI 53711. If possible, MSWord files sent to: johnson7@tds.net are most appreciated.

Obituary

Adam LaPorte

On February 14, 2009 Adam LaPorte drowned when his vehicle went through the ice while fishing on the St. Louis River near Superior, Wisconsin. He was 37 years old. Adam was a past president of the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance and formerly lived in Lyndon Station in Juneau County.

A licensed guide for more than 17 years, LaPorte grew up in Vilas and Oneida counties in northeastern Wisconsin. He had lived in Superior for several years. Last year he joined forces with friends and fellow muskie guides Dustin Carlson of Duluth, Pete Brzezinski of Superior and Bob Benson of Chetek, Wis., to form Northland Muskie Adventures to guide anglers in Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin.

"Part of guiding is educating people," Carlson said. "He was a great instructor. He loved teaching people about the outdoors in general, not only about muskie fishing, but just about anything."

The accident also killed LaPorte's dog, Bailey, an 11-year-old golden retriever and LaPorte's constant companion. "She was in the boat 24/7 with him," Carlson said. "She went ice fishing with him. She loved muskie fishing and would sit in the front of the boat."

"You don't like to think about it, but if Adam was going to go out and pass away, he was doing what he loved to do. He was going out fishing," Carlson said.

For Anderson, it's a comfort knowing it happened quickly, that he didn't suffer and that he was on the water he loved with his best friend. "He's going to be missed like crazy," she said. "He touched so many people."



This month's program, to be held on Monday, March 23rd, to feature big brookies.

by Mike Pierce

In May of last year, my wife Joanie and I spent a week at Kwagama Lake Lodge, 120 miles north and east of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. It is part of an on-going series she and I are doing on quality fishing adventures for a reasonable price

The lodge is located on an island in Kwagama Lake, and is the only resort or cabin on that lake and the three adjoining lakes. It can only be accessed via float plane or by taking a train out of Sault Ste. Marie.

If you take the train, you are picked up by the lodge owners who take you nine miles inland from the tracks via four wheel drive pickup, ATV's and trailers, and a pontoon boat. This portion of the trip can take up to two hours.

All of these lakes are brook trout only lakes. There are no pike, bass, lake trout, or other species present. Brook trout in Kwagama average between 15" and 19", with some fish over 20" caught every week and some fish over 23" caught each season.

The program discusses the lodge, the lakes, and the techniques used on these large brook trout. It also rates the lodge for prospective guests, and gives some tips for what to take if you book a trip there.

Quote without comment:

"Smallmouth bass became a major component of the fish community during the late 1980s. Flowage smallies are particularly robust in appearance (very heavy for their length)."

"The high quality of these fish and their relatively high vulnerability to angling keeps the sport fishery thriving at times when angler catch rates of walleye

decline during the "dog days" of summer."

"But we suspect bass population density is lower than most anglers realize. Our most recent estimate was that there was approximately one smallmouth bass for every five adult walleyes in the Flowage. This is not readily apparent to anglers because smallmouth bass usually are so much easier to catch than walleye."

Excerpted from a recent Wisconsin DNR report on the fishery of a Northern Wisconsin flowage.

Our Next Meeting:

Big Brookies of Kwagama Lake Lodge

Monday

March 23rd

Mapletree Restaurant
McFarland

The last time Mike Pierce spoke to the club on fly fishing smallies on the Wisconsin River, you might remember that he and his wife Joanie were excited about their upcoming trip for brook trout.

This month Mike will be back to tell us all about it. See the story on the previous page for the details.

And remember: due to a conflict with the St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Mapletree, we will be having a joint meeting with the Badger Fly Fishers on their regular fourth Monday date.



Note the change in the date!

Upcoming Events:

- Monday, March 23rd 7:00 P.M.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA and BFF monthly meeting

Due to our normal Tuesday meeting date coinciding with St. Patrick's Day, we will hold a joint meeting with the Badger Fly Fishers on the fourth Monday in March.

- Tuesday, April 21st 7:00 P.M.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA 4th Annual Trash & Treasure Night
See the article on first page.

- Monday, April 27th 7:00 P.M.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

BFF monthly meeting
Brad Bohlen fly fishing for Muskie