



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

November 2010

Wilderness Salmon Fishing for Lake Huron Kings and Pinks

*Mike and Joan Pierce
will present program
at Nov. meeting*



Man (and woman) does not live by smallmouth alone, and there are wonderful salmon and steelhead opportunities in the Great Lakes tributaries after smallmouth fishing cools in the fall, and before it starts up in the spring.

Like smallmouth rivers and lakes, not all anadromous opportunities are equally good, scenic, or aesthetically pleasing. In fact, some tributary fishing for salmon can be a downright disturbing exercise in dealing with rude and even illegal behavior.

This program will show you that fall salmon fishing in the tribs can be a fun, sporting experience of sight fishing to big fish in clear, small waters, where the angler can see the salmon take the fly like a nymphing trout.

Mike and Joanie's program will take you to a premier salmon destination just outside Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, on the Garden River, inside the First Nation Reservation. Good numbers of Chinook salmon, pink salmon, and "pinooks", a hybrid of pinks and Chinooks, migrate up the Garden River, through native lands for 20 miles before getting to public fishing areas further inland.

On native lands, fishing is restricted to a limited number of anglers under the supervision of an outfitter and native guides. The restricted access assures a quality, wilderness experience.

Salmon returning to Ontario streams are wild fish, the product of decades of successful spawning

Continued on next page.

runs in the Canadian tributaries. Pinks have not been stocked in Canadian waters for over 20 years, yet the runs of pink salmon are stronger than ever.

A similar story applies to Chinooks. The hybrids are created when in the crowded spawning areas shared by the two species, the redds, the milt, and the eggs of pinks and Chinooks get mixed.

Although these hybrids are sterile, they still try to spawn and tend to be as aggressive as the pinks, which are the most aggressive of the tributary salmon.

The wild nature of all three species makes them more willing to take a fly, as they have behavioral memories of taking nymphs and other foods in their spawning stream as fry and smolts. Getting these fish when they are fresh from the lake also means a higher percentage of bright, high energy fish.

There are three basic points to the program. First, Mike and Joanie will show you that quality, wild salmon fishing in a wilderness setting is available within a day's drive for Wisconsin anglers. They will share what an average day is like in this salmon camp and accurately tell you what you can expect.

Second, they will show you the techniques that lead to success on these more aggressive, but still sometimes difficult fish. Selecting the fish to which you present the fly and the locations you set up to fish are keys to avoiding fish after fish that seem to have lockjaw.

When the river is full of fish, and big fish are easily visible, it is hard not to go after the closest and biggest fish you see, but knowing where the fish will be the most aggressive, and where a presentation has the best chance of success makes the difference between washing flies and hooking up.

There are also some presentation techniques that can reduce the number of accidental foul hooks and

increase the number of aggressive takes. Unintentional foul hooks can occur when swinging flies through pods of fish, but some strategies will limit these accidents and increase the number of fair hook ups.

Third, Mike will open up his little black fly box and show you simple fly patterns that will effectively take these fish, even if you fish spinning tackle.

Salmon in the tribs have a bad reputation, and it is not uncommon to hear horror stories about pulling in half dead fish, having to roll the fly into their mouth to get a take, slob fisherman snagging with spoons and treble hooks, etc.

Many fishermen have sworn off - and swear at -

the experience after one trip to some of our Wisconsin tributaries. Mike and Joanie believe that if this has been your experience, then you are fishing the wrong waters.

Fall run salmon are great game fish. Give

them another chance, just check out Ontario and Upper Peninsula rivers that offer wild fish and a more wilderness experience. Even if you fish Wisconsin waters, this program will help you identify what fish to target and how to get more takes by fresher fish.

Although they love to target smallmouth bass, Mike and Joanie take in good fly fishing opportunities wherever they can, especially for big fish on the fly. Their programs focus on affordable Midwestern locations that offer trophy fish.

Their programs show you where to go, what to use, what specialized gear may be needed, and what strategies shorten the learning curve and maximize success.

Come to our November meeting to learn how you can access the great "second season" resource of tributary salmon. Learn how to hook up with more big fish in a day than some anglers catch all season.



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Ltd.

2701 Gust Road
Verona, WI 53593
(608) 843-3770
wisconsin-smallmouth.com

Steve Winters
President
(608) 524-6348
swinters@jvl.net

John Pritchard
Vice President
(608) 877-0344
john_pritchard@sbcglobal.net

Mike Simon
Treas./Membership
(608) 848-3770
madisonmike@tds.net

Gerry Zingger
Secretary
(608) 233-7348
zingger@charter.net

Jerry Pasdo
Board
(608) 233-2774
pasdo@execpc.com

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

Mining venture proposed on Menominee River

The [Back Forty Project](#) is a joint mining venture between Aquila Resources and HudBay Minerals Inc. The project is proposing a surface sulphide mine for zinc, copper, gold and silver. It is located along the eastern shore of the Menominee River in Menominee County, Michigan.

The Menominee River is a world-class small-mouth fishery that has become a favorite of club members, many of whom fish it several times each season.

Back Forty describes the project as in, “an advanced stage exploration.” The location is east, north-east of Stephenson, Michigan, which is at the lower end of the 60 Islands. This is along the Chalk Hill Dam to Pike River section, a popular float.

Front Forty, a grassroots organization of citizens who are opposed to the mine, has asked our club for help in funding their campaign to increase public awareness of the project and its adverse effects of sulphide mineral mining on the land, the river, and its fishery.

Their efforts include, yard signs, newspaper ads, and billboards. The request will be taken up at the next board meeting.

Board meeting set

There will be a Board of Directors meeting at 5:30 p.m. on November 16th, before our regular monthly meeting.

The main topics that will be discussed, are funding for the stocking project on the Apple River, and whether we wish to support the Front 40 movement to stop a proposed mining project that would be just on the Menominee River near Stephenson, Michigan.

All WSA members are welcome to attend and to participate in all WSA board meetings. Those who wish to comment but are unable to attend the meeting are encouraged to email their comments to club president [Steve Winters](#) before November 13th so that he can add them to the meeting agenda.



Decals of our club logo (shown at left) are now available. They can be purchased at the meetings. The cost is \$5.

Our Next Meeting:

**Tuesday,
November 16th**

"Wilderness Salmon Fishing for Lake Huron Kings and Pinks"

Mike and Joan Pierce

See first page for details



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 16th 7:00 P.M
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

Monday, November 22nd 7:00 P.M
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

Tuesday, December 14th
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

Tuesday, January 18th
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA Monthly Meeting
Mike and Joan Pierce - "Wilderness Salmon
Fishing for Lake Huron Kings and Pinks"

BFF Monthly Meeting
"Alaska Rafting Adventure" - Jim Bartelt, Bill
Engber, Henry Haugley and Charles Hodulik

WSA/BFF Holiday Banquet
Eric Carson of the Wisconsin Geological Survey
"Geology of the Driftless Area"

WSA Monthly Meeting
Andy Davidson - Making wooden bass plugs