



# THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

*Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing*

July 2011

**Good fishing right in our  backyard.**  
*neighbors*

Anglers who like to pursue smallmouth bass in streams and small rivers that offer both excellent fishing and great scenery are overlooking one of the best nearby opportunities.

That's probably due to the fact that it's not in Wisconsin, but our neighbor to the south, northern Illinois.

It's the Kishwaukee River, usually referred to as just the Kish. It starts in Woodstock, but the best fishery begins outside Belvedere.

The river offers plenty of two to three pound bronzebacks with an occasional five pounder available too.

The seven-plus mile section between Belvedere and Cherry Valley can be floated in a day. There is a good put in and takeout for the canoeist and kayaker.

Below Cherry Valley, nearly the entire river can be accessed from the many county forest preserves.

This stretch offers prime wading opportunities and woodland settings. Rocky habitat abounds.

The preserves end just south of Rockford at Highway 251. After a few more miles the Kish joins the Rock River.



In all, this stretch offers 15 miles (as the crow flies) of smallmouth angling, and several more actual river miles.

Much of this is perfect for poppers and topwater baits. Deeper holes and pools will be found too, especially at the numerous bends.

An occasional northern or walleye may be caught as they travel the river extensively in search of minnow prey. Catfish are also very

common through this stream and are especially abundant at the mouth.

Illinois fishing licenses can be purchased from the DNR online. The DNR website also lists license vendors by county or city.



*Bill Schultz with a 20 inch smallmouth taken from a Door County bay*

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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 to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St. Madison, WI 53711. Word files sent to: [johnson7@tds.net](mailto:johnson7@tds.net) are most appreciated.

## **Our Next Meeting:**

Regular monthly meetings  
resume September 20th

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**  
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

**WSA Monthly Meeting**  
John Cantwell - "Smallmouth lakes in the  
Northern Highland State Forrest"

**Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of each month. The Badger Fly Fishers meet on the fourth Monday.**

**Both groups meet at the Mapletree Restaurant on Highway 51, in McFarland, Wisconsin. Programs begin at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m.**

**Visitors and guests are always welcome.**