



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

September 2011

September meeting to feature silent auction



These items and more!



Sept. 20th marks the start of the 2011-12 WSA meeting season. Our first meeting will be highlighted by a silent auction and our speaker John Cantwell.

The silent auction will start during the dinner hour, and end at 7:15. At that time, successful bidders will be announced. Gerry Zingg has taken pictures of some of the items, and they are included in this newsletter.

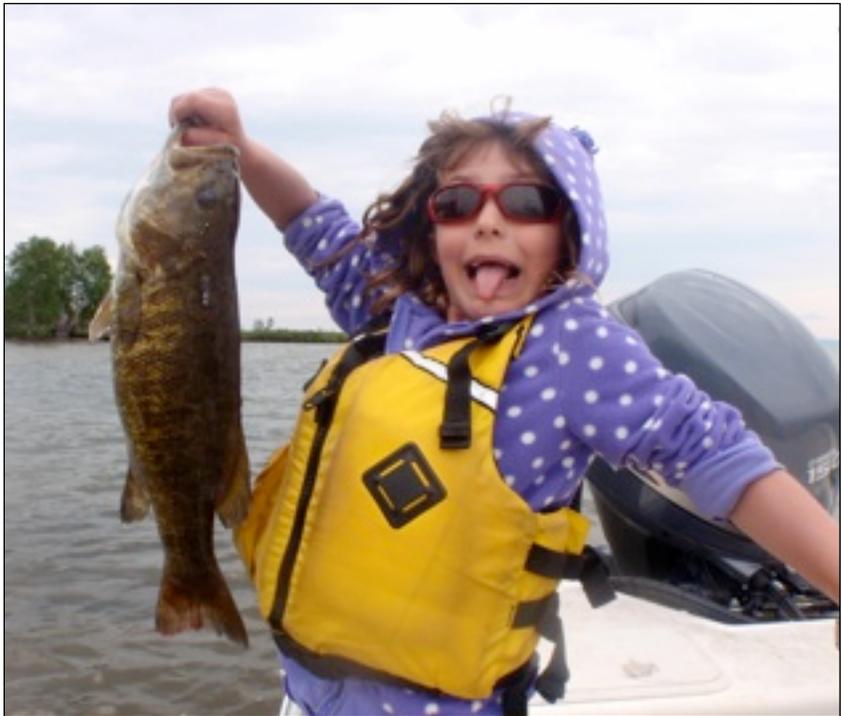
As you may recall, last spring's fundraiser coincided with a snow storm, so we had some items remaining and decided to offer them as a supplemental

auction. If you missed the fun in April, we still have some great things up for bid.

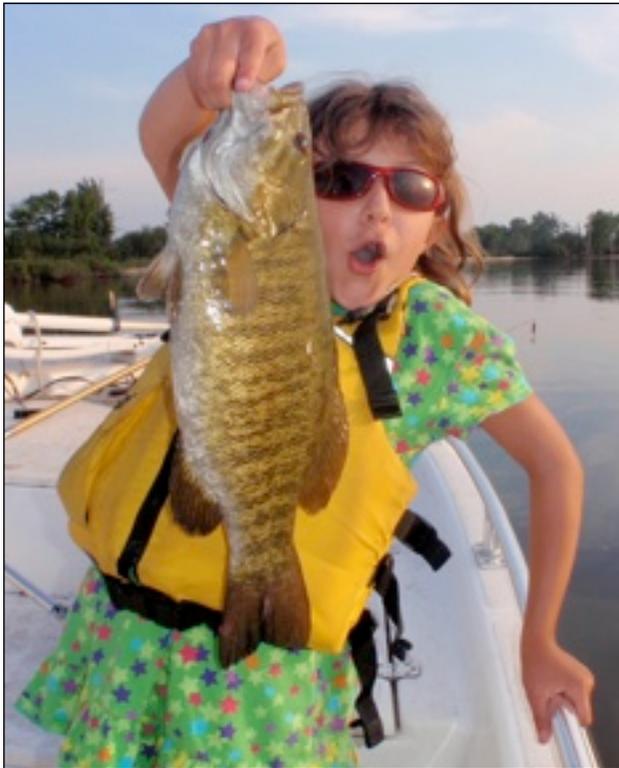
Following the announcement of winning bidders, John Cantwell will give a presentation on Smallmouth Lakes in the Northern Highland State Forest. I know many of you fish this area of the state, and these jewels of the forest should provide for an entertaining and informative evening.

Come early for dinner if you can, I'm sure there are fish stories to be told and catching up to do!

Little girl, big fish



Photos by Cory White



Zoë White, age eight, of Madison, with a couple of beautiful Chequamegon Bay smallmouth that she caught in June. Yes, by herself! The one pictured above ran 18½ inches.

Zoë has been catching fish with her dad since she was 3. She does not use live bait and she releases all of her fish, which has not affected her enthusiasm.

She has reeled in her own fish from the beginning, but started casting “big fish lures” herself last year. She still enjoys throwing a panfish jig and bobber from time to time and will gladly bend your ear with tales of her triumphs “when she was little.”

She has begun to bug her dad about when she will be allowed to learn fly fishing (“once you have mastered untangling your own spinning equipment!”)

Zoë is frequently the first to spot an eagle, a crane, a swan or a white pelican flying overhead; a kingfisher, a heron, a deer or a raccoon visiting the shallows or a beaver, a loon or - her favorite - an otter out for a swim.

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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 are most appreciated.

Apple River surveyed, but under tough conditions

In 2009, the Woodley Dam on the Apple River in Polk County was removed. This has restored fish passage from the headwaters of the Apple River and its main tributary, Fox Creek, downstream to the Apple River Flowage in Amery. The portion of river downstream from the flowage had a reproducing population of smallmouth.

In order to accelerate the re-introduction of smallmouth bass into the free flowing portions of the Apple River and Fox Creek upstream of Amery, our club partnered with the DNR. It is hoped that this will create a moderate density population that can sustain itself without stocking in the future, similar to the population downstream of the flowage.

The project was designed as a 3-5 year experiment, and an initial survey was planned for this year. According to Fisheries Technician, Mark Stanley, "We just surveyed the Apple River last Thursday, August

18th. With all the rain we have been having, we were trying to wait to for the best possible conditions. With time running out in this summer survey season, we made the choice to sample last week.

"The water was high and the currents strong, which made it difficult for surveying. It did not make ideal working conditions.

"We surveyed two sites above the Apple River Flowage, the same two sites where you stocked the smallmouth bass last year, Polk County Park at Mains Crossing and 153rd Ave. We did not collect any smallmouth bass at 153rd ave. We did collect 3 smallmouth bass at the county park site. They ranged in size from 7.1 inches to 10.0 inches.

"These two sites are big stretches of river which make it hard to sample in the first place. There is a lot of room for fish to evade us and the sampling technique. Throw in high water and strong currents on top of that and it makes it tough to capture fish.

"Both spots are great smallmouth habitat. At the county park we surveyed 800 meters (1/2 mile) upstream of the bridge, and at 153rd Ave. we surveyed 800 meters (1/2 mile) downstream of the bridge."



Photo by Bob Selk

With "Gator" Johnson on the oars, Jeff Christenson's only concern is to watch for is their next fishing hole on the Menominee River. At least that's how your editor understood the situation.

Our Next Meeting:

Tuesday
September 20th

John Cantwell on “Bass Fishing the Wild Lakes of the Northern Highland”



John is a former Vice Chair and National Director for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. He is a founding member of the Marinette County chapter of TU and of Classic Anglers of Wisconsin in Green Bay. He is also co-owner of BlueSky Furled Leaders.

He and Carol moved to Madison last September, but they spend lots of time in Vilas County as well.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, September 20th 7:00 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA Monthly Meeting
John Cantwell - “Smallmouth lakes in the Northern Highland State Forrest”

Monday, September 26th 7:00 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

BFF Monthly Meeting
Bob White speaking

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.