



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

February 2012



Our fellow club, The Badger Fly Fishers is hosting its annual Spring Opener this month on February 11th, a one day event that is about everything fly fishing.

It is a great learning experience, entertaining too, and most of all, a lot of fun.

While this year's speaker is trout expert, Dave Hughes, there is plenty for those whose passion is pursuing small mouth on the fly rod as well.

Details and more info can be found at the [Badger's web site](#).

And speaking of annual events...

Don't forget that our own Trash and Treasure auction is coming up in April.

If you are planning to donate any items, you can contact [Mike Simon](#).

More details and info will be in next month's newsletter



Club trip scheduled for June 22nd - 24th

A number of years ago our club did a spring trip to the Bittersweet Lakes Natural Area just east of Woodruff, Wisconsin.

This area consists of four lakes: Prong (30 acres 50 feet deep), Bittersweet (104 acres 31 feet deep), Smith (43 acres 18 feet deep), and Oberlin (46 acres 25 feet deep). These lakes are primarily largemouth lakes with a catch and release regulation on all four.

Bittersweet also has a decent population of Northern Pike in addition to largemouth bass and all of the lakes have decent (sometimes quite large bluegill). Access to the lakes is by a walk-in trail about 3/8 mile long.

There are no houses or structures on any of these lakes, and the fishing can be terrific. Prong is the deepest and clearest of the lakes followed by Bittersweet. Smith is fairly dark, and I have never made it to Oberlin.

Accommodations are easily available from camping, to motels, resorts, and B&B's.

As far as boats; canoes, float tubes, or inflatable pontoons seem to be the most sensible options.

Contact, Andy Davidson if you are interested, cell phone (608)338-2639.

Andy Davidson offering lure-making class

There has been some interest in a wooden lure making class, Andy, with help from Dan Johnson will be teaching a lure making class in his shop on Saturday February 18 from 9:00 a.m. until we are finished.

The items that we plan to cover in the class are:

- Wood selection
- Making a template for shaping the lure
- Shaping the lure on the lathe
- Shaping a crankbait body using bandsaw, spokeshave, belt sander, and final hand sanding
- Sealing the lure
- Painting the lure including scale effects and eyes
- Final sealant coat
- Attaching the hardware and hook sizing

Due to time constraints, we will use pre-shaped lure bodies. You will have to select a lure body and

bill if required. If making bass lures, we will order as a group. If you want to make a musky lure, you will order that body and bill yourself (probably from Rollie and Helen's)

The goal of the class is to have your lure painted and ready to finish. The final finish has to be turned and dried for at least 12 hours, so you will not be able to take the lure home that day unless you wish to install the final finish yourself. I will bring your finished lure to the March WSA meeting and it will be ready for you to install the final hardware.

The class will be limited to six people and there will be a cost of approximately \$5.00 to cover class materials. To reserve a space, call Andy Davidson at (608)338-2639. The address of the shop is 2402 Hwy E, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

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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.

Our Next Meeting:

Door County Smallies

**Tuesday
February 21st**

Last year, Bill Schultz presented a program on fitting out and using a fishing kayak.

This month Bill returns to speak on the smallmouth fishery of Door County.

When looking at the top smallmouth bass fisheries in the country, you need to include Door County, Wisconsin in the top 10. He has spent over 160 days fishing these bountiful waters since 1995 catching and releasing thousands of smallies.

A popular seminar speaker and outdoor writer, Bill will share his knowledge of this great fishery with our club at our February meeting on the 21st. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to fish the waters of Green Bay. You'll learn what to use, how to use it and much more. This talk won't just be for the guy with the big bass boat. There are plenty of opportunities for kayaks, smaller boats, canoes and even wading.

Bill will have a sample pack of his top presentation, the Kalin's Lunker Grub, for all in attendance. Along with a sample pack of his Gopher Tackle jigs. This will be a great meeting to bring a friend or two or three!



Upcoming Events:

Saturday, February 11th All day

BFF Spring Opener - See page 1

Tuesday, February 21st 7:00 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA Monthly Meeting
See above

Monday, February 27th 7:00 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

BFF Monthly Meeting
Jim Bartelt - Spring creek fishing

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

WSA Monthly Meeting
T.B.A.

Tuesday, April 17th 7:00 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA Monthly Meeting
Trash and Treasure Auction

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!