



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

March 2013

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance, Ltd. 8th Annual Fundraising Auction to be held April 16, 2013

by Mike Simon, Auction chairman

Even as I look across a snow covered landscape, with single digit temperature in mid February, I can't help but start thinking about spring, smallmouth fishing, and our annual fundraiser. Over the past several years we've funded many worthwhile projects to the tune of \$18,000. This year's initiatives include increasing our commitment to getting kids involved in the outdoors and working with the DNR on funding the Half-Log Structure brochure for distribution throughout NE Wisconsin.

We have many volunteers helping to solicit items for the fundraiser, as well as members tying flies, making lures and goodies, crafting items, etc. In addition, gently used items are always welcome. If you have time to donate or help in any way, it would be appreciated. As you are aware, we have this single event to fund our year's projects. Participation at all levels is helpful!

The single biggest thing our members can do is to attend the event and bring a friend or two. Having a room full of people to bid on the amazing array of items, always adds to the enjoyment of the event. As

always, we will have a large selection of flies, from bluegill to musky and everything in between. Many of us use this event to purchase flies for the coming year. If you are a tier and could donate some flies, please let Steve Winters know, as he's coordinating this. We can even furnish the boxes for you. If you

can't reach Steve (he'll be unavailable for part of March), call me or any board member (contacts listed on the back of the newsletter).

We have several trips donated by some of the area's top guides, to some premier smallmouth destinations in the Midwest. Thanks go to Wildwood Float Trips, Angler's All, Ron Barefield, Blackwater Fly Fishing, On The Creek Fly Shop, and 45 Degrees North Fly Fishing, among others. For an updated list, please check our website.

Again this year will be the opportunity for distant members to bid. If you are one of those members and see a trip or item of interest, contact me or another board member to place a bid for you.



Continued on next page

If you're looking for a guided trip, rods, reels (both spin and fly), lures, flies, outdoor related merchandise, or something to satisfy your sweet tooth, mark your calendar for April 16th at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland, and please bring a friend!

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

As a reminder, only cash or checks are accepted. Like last year, the goal is to have the event wrapped-up by 9 PM. Final details will be in the April newsletter and on our website.

WHERE'S THE MONEY GOING?

With our eight annual fundraiser coming in April, we always like to keep members and donors informed of how the money is appropriated. Over the past several years, \$18,500 has been used to fund numerous projects. Last year we donated \$4,500 as follows:

- The winter and summer kids fishing events here in Dane Co.
- Youth Conservation Days in Sauk Co.
- Youth in the Outdoors in Polk and Burnett counties

The money donated to these projects helped 1,700+ kids become more aware of what the outdoors has to offer.

The River Alliance of Wisconsin, an organization that keeps a watchful eye on the rivers around our state and home to some great smallmouth fishing. They are also providing valuable input to the mining proposal in Wisconsin.

This past year was the final installment on the restocking of the upper Apple River in NW Wisconsin. We eagerly await survey results some time this summer.

This year's commitments include the above listed youth events and the Half-Log Structure brochure project in Northeast Wisconsin, in conjunction with the DNR.

As always, we remind everyone that all this is made possible by very generous donors and supporters of our club and its causes. These include generous guides who donate trips, business partners who donate fantastic merchandise, and our members who donate a variety of items, many of them hand-crafted.

You can keep up with the growing list of auction items on our website. Individuals and businesses will be listed, along with the items donated. Please take time to check it out regularly. There will also be a list of items in the April newsletter.

NORTHERN ZONE CATCH & RELEASE SEASON By: Jerry Pasdo

The following is a question on the April Spring Hearings Questionnaire – question 4 on page 15.

Do you favor applying the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season from the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June to Smallmouth Bass only, and only allowing Largemouth Bass to be caught and kept during that time?

Our board solicited an opinion from Mike Vogelsang of the DNR, a frequent resource for us, discussed the subject at a recent Board meeting, and followed up with email discussions. The board decided the following:

- We support the initial thought, that smallmouth bass and largemouth bass should be reviewed and handled as different species.
- Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance promotes catch and release of all bass as our mission. This is especially true when the bass are most vulnerable when they are on their beds. If certain bodies of water have specific needs, they should still be managed for such purposes – whether for walleyes, pike, panfish, or bass.
- By not releasing fish in the early season, the better gene pool is depleted. These are the survivors and spawners. Also, depleting the larger fish for those catchable excursions later in the year will diminish interest in fishing for everyone during the year.

Therefore, we recommend **not** changing the regulations as they currently exist in the Northern zone.

For the full question and an explanation, please visit:

http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/spring_hearing/2013/2013SpringQuestionnaireFinal.pdf

Club fishing trips

We finally have decided on club trips for the year. Last year we did one trip, and for 2013 we have decided to schedule two trips as follows:

June 20, 21, 22, and 23 Flambeau River. Dan Johnson, Jerry Pasdo, and Andy Davidson will be heading up on Thursday, June 20, 2013 to the Park Falls area to fish two sections of the Flambeau River where we are confident of catching lots of small-mouth, and possibly even muskies.

See the maps in last month's newsletter. Dan Johnson and Andy Davidson did both floats last year in July (when it was over 90 degrees!) and believe me, there are some very nice fish in these two stretches of the river.

There is some wading possible, but the best fishing is obtained by floating the river. There are some minor rapids in both stretches, but depending on water levels, these rapids are very navigable using canoe, kayak, or inflatable pontoon craft.

While everyone may not be able to go for the three or four days, we have scheduled two weekend days for those who are still employed. We will be stay-

ing at the [Flambeau Forest Inn](#) (715) 332-5405. There are a total of six motel rooms available at this location (\$50.00/night for a double). We have all ready booked two rooms, and at this time there are still four more rooms available.

This motel has a restaurant, but is not open for breakfast, so breakfast will be on your own. If the Flambeau Forest in is full, we have stayed at the Edge of Town Motel in Park Falls, and they usually have rooms available.

July 13. Wisconsin River. This will be a day trip with several starting and ending possibilities. These sections are also shown in last month's newsletter.

The tricky currents under the old railroad bridge should be navigated along the far right bank. Otherwise, there are no rapids in this section of the Wisconsin, so the trip should be relatively uneventful - with the exception of the many large smallmouth that we anticipate landing in these sections. Access will always be on the west or north side of the river which will make the shuttles easy and short.

If you want to do an overnight, the Cedarberry Inn in Sauk City is very nice.

Please contact [Andy Davidson](#) 608-338-2639 regarding interest in either of these trips.



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Ltd.

2701 Gust Road
Verona, WI 53593
(608) 843-3770

<http://wisconsin-smallmouth.com/wordpress/>

Jerry Pasdo
President
(608) 233-2774
japasdo@gmail.com

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

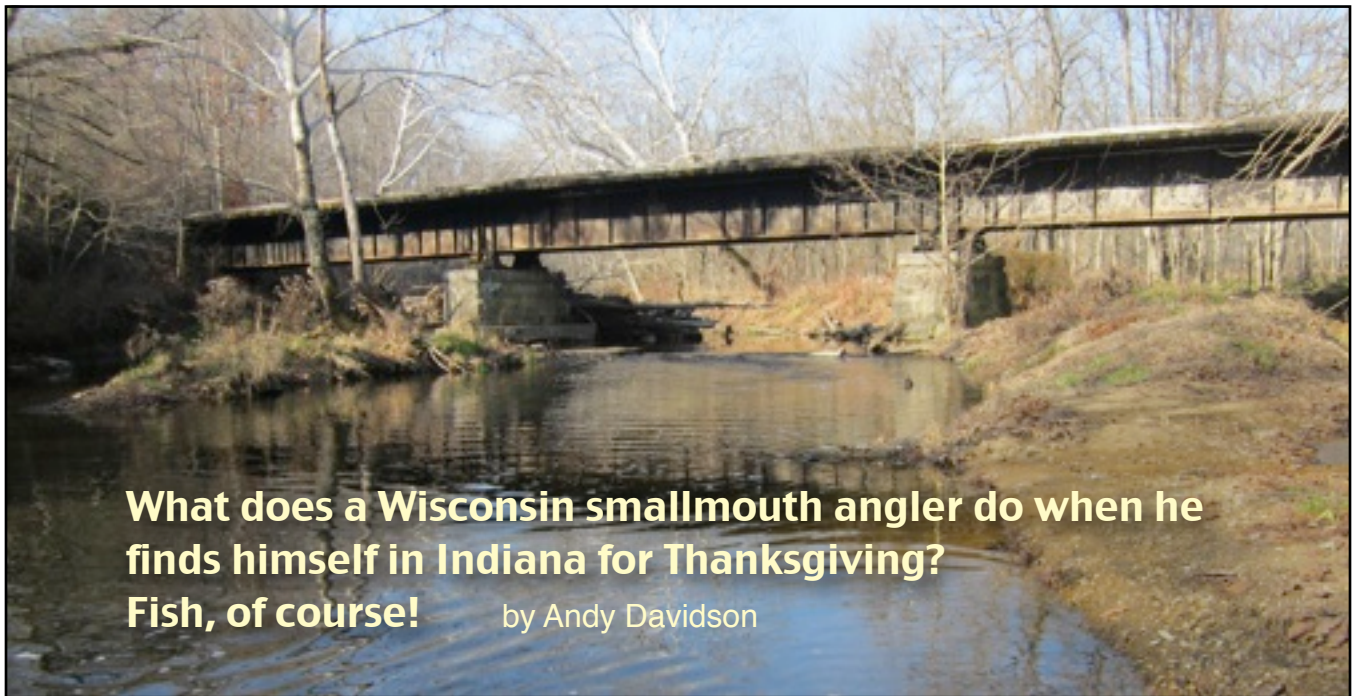
Mike Simon
Treas./Membership
(608) 848-3770
madisonmike@tds.net

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

Andy Davidson
Board
(608) 338-2639
buroakakd@gmail.com

Articles, photos, 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. Send to: johnson7@tds.net, editor.

Steve Winters
Board
(608) 524-6348
swinters@jvlnet.com



What does a Wisconsin smallmouth angler do when he finds himself in Indiana for Thanksgiving? Fish, of course! by Andy Davidson

There is no place that I would rather be (if not fishing) than at home in Mount Horeb. Consequently, I was not terribly excited last year when my sister-in-law invited us down to Bloomington, Indiana for Thanksgiving.

Why drive six and a half hours if not to fish?

I really like Joanne and her husband Barry, but being gone for six days at this time of year meant that I also might miss some fishing on the Madison lakes.

Prior to the trip, I checked with the members of the Indiana Smallmouth Alliance to see if there was any place to fish smallmouth near Bloomington. They were extremely helpful, going even as far as to give me GPS coordinates and driving directions to Clear Creek, about 20 miles southwest of Bloomington.

Wednesday morning I waited for it to warm-up a bit and for Dicks Sporting Goods to open so that I could get a one day Indiana fishing license. Pretty good deal - it was only \$9.00.

Driving south on Indiana 37, I was happily surprised at both the warm, sunny day, 65 degrees, and the rolling hills of the Hoosier National Forest. A couple of turns off the highway, and I arrived at the old railroad bridge on Clear Creek.

Donning waders and taking a spinning rod, I walked the twenty-five feet to the creek and began fishing with a YumDinger. There was a nice pool below the railroad bridge, and tossing the lure upstream into the pool, I waited for the strike that never came. There was a nasty tangle of large timber at the bridge

abutments, so not wanting to negotiate that snag, I headed downstream looking for another pool.

Clear Creek was running cool and clear and about twenty-five to sixty feet across. There was an abundance of minnows and even a few crayfish darting across the limestone rubble. Continuing downstream, I tried a variety of lures with no success, so I decided to reverse direction.

Getting past the pile of timber at the bridge, I headed upstream looking for another pool. Wading was easy on the limestone bottom. I couldn't help but think that if this piece of water was in Wisconsin, it would hold some pretty nice trout.

By this time, I had tried a variety of plastics including dingers, flukes, and Kalins Grubs, with no success. Arriving at the next pool, I decided that it was time for an unorthodox change of tactics. After all, it was November 21 and what self respecting smallmouth would attack a tiny torpedo on the surface at this time of year.

Three casts into the pool and there was some activity behind the Torpedo and a couple of more pops and it was fish on! The fish was not large, but it was feisty. I continued wading to the next bridge, and by the time that I was ready to quit, the Tiny Torpedo had accounted for five smallies.

Pretty nice day when I began not knowing what the fishing would be like. My thanks to the Indiana Smallmouth Alliance and specifically Dave Lovett for giving me the information on Clear Creek.

Our Next Meeting:

**Tuesday
March 19th**

Fly Fishing Central Wisconsin for Smallmouth Bass

Abe Downs

Abe has been fishing his entire life and fly fishing for over twenty years in central Wisconsin. He is a partner in Blackwater Fly Fishing, a guide service located in Stevens Point. Having traveled extensively from coast to coast, and south of the border with his fly rod, his current passion is fly fishing for smallmouth bass and musky.

Blackwater is dedicated in teaching clients the finer points of fly fishing for these species. They use drift boats to float central Wisconsin rivers.

Abe's presentation will concentrate on the Wisconsin River including specific locations and techniques for smallies.



Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, March 19th 7:00 p.m.

WSA Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 25th 7:00 p.m.

BFF Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 16th

WSA Monthly Meeting, Annual Fundraiser Auction

Monday, April 22nd 7:00 p.m.

BFF Monthly Meeting

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!**