



# THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

*Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing*

July 2014

## WSA Trip Report

### The Red River Rumble

By: Jerry Pasdo

One of our 2014 WSA trips was initially scheduled to try various popular smallmouth streams in the Clintonville/Shawano area. DNR fishery manager, Al Niebaur, spoke to our group this last year about the excellent fishing on the Embarrass, the Little Wolf, and the Wau-paca, among others. This became the target for one of our outings. Bill Flaherty, Andy Davidson, Ray Mirande, and Jerry Pasdo left Thursday to meet in Clintonville.

Of course, the weather had different ideas. The plan was to try different streams at first, and then hit the favorite on the last day. Unfortunately, 2½" of rain just days previous raised the water level on most of the streams. Continued threats of thunderstorms changed our plans to local lakes.

Bill and I headed to Grass and Round Lakes, two clear water lakes just north of Clintonville in Shawano County. A few hours of fishing only produced a few small largemouth bass. Meanwhile, Ray and Andy went to fish Pella Pond, a dark water impoundment on the Embarrass River. While both Ray and Andy only

caught a few largemouth, they did witness a rather interesting situation. As they pulled up to the landing, there was a service company's truck sitting there with someone in the cab.

It took our two fishermen about 40 minutes to complete assembly of everything for the outing and the guy was still sitting in the truck. Andy was about to ask him if they were hiring because both he and Ray could do that type of screwing off. Just prior to approaching his truck, another vehicle pulled in behind the service truck, the truck driver exited his truck and got into the passenger side of the other vehicle.

Shortly, the two in that vehicle were not visible. Now, Ray and Andy were really hoping for that kind of a job.

Fishing was not great, so we decided to head to the motel. As we were checking in, there were several women in scantily clad outfits walking through the corridor with some older men. The desk clerk was quite upset that these women were using the motel for dubious endeavors. Andy

decided to talk to one of the women, and "Summer" said that they were dancers working at a club just north of Shawano. Hmmm.

After a rainy night and morning, and after numerous cups of coffee, and after discussing various river options, the weather looked like it was beginning to cooperate. Then, after a fortunate discussion with the



Continued on next page

hotel clerk (fisherwoman), the group decided to head to a section of the Red River northwest of Shawno.

We were eager to try the other waters, but the high levels and winds would have created enough downfalls that the clerk felt we may have to do portages in the nettle and mosquito infested shorelines. Also, we had to find a section of the Red River that did not carry class 2 or 3 rapids.

We were lucky to find a section between two bridges that looked attractive. The fast water held a reasonable quantity of smallmouth, and the four of us spread out down river. Most of the water was 1-4 feet deep, laced with boulders and some deeper pools in excess of 6 feet at the lower stretch. Not knowing the river, we took too much time on the upper stretch while the lower stretch probably had better possibilities – ah well, next time.

The large number of sweepers would make this trip interesting and very difficult for the typical 17' canoe. However, it is very suitable for smaller canoes, kayaks, or kick boats. One sweeper in a particular area stretched across the river and was only passable between the 4' long, 2" thick, teeth-like branches that dropped to the water. There was barely enough room to squeeze a kayak through the jaws.

Worse yet, the jaws appeared as you rounded a bend in swift water. Needless to say, we all got caught. But, after individual efforts we all made it through without spilling. Bill's prescription sunglasses are still rolling on the river bottom because his safety strap was still in the car.

Both the take-out and the put-in were down 10-12 foot embankments and involved nearly an hour each to bring our water craft and all the fishing gear along. Plus, just try that kind of entry and exit in swift water.

This was a very fun adventure and all did catch smallmouth, but nothing over 16". I know I will do this stretch again – hopefully after the jaws are removed.

The steep banks, very few signs of civilization, boulders, sweepers, towering pines and maples makes this a beautiful float. Add in some fishing with fun folks, and the adventure was successful. Now, with more river knowledge, this stretch of the Red is very fishable and should be on our list for future trips. Unfortunately, the trip plans were made in the spring prior to graduation parties, reunions, and foundation benefits which shortened the trip by one day.

Next the upper Wisconsin... stay tune!



## 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](mailto:japasdo@gmail.com)

John Pritchard  
Vice President  
(608) 877-0344  
[john\\_pritchard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:john_pritchard@sbcglobal.net)

Mike & Kathy Simon  
Treas./Membership  
(608) 848-3770  
[madisonmike@tds.net](mailto:madisonmike@tds.net)

Andy Davidson  
Secretary  
(608) 338-2639  
[buroakakd@gmail.com](mailto:buroakakd@gmail.com)

Gerry Zingg  
Board  
(608) 233-7348  
[zingger@charter.net](mailto:zingger@charter.net)

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](mailto:johnson7@tds.net), editor.

Dan Johnson  
Board  
(608) 233-6518  
[johnson7@tds.net](mailto:johnson7@tds.net)

# Blue-green algae blooms appearing in southern lakes, will continue northward

DNR Weekly News

MADISON -- Those heading out to lakes are advised to be on the lookout for blue-green algae blooms beginning to form on lakes and ponds across the state. Reports show blooms are forming on southern lakes and will gradually appear northward as the summer months continue.

"Blue-green algae have 'pea soup' appearance in lakes and contain green, blue, white, red, or brown scums that may be foamy or in mats," says Gina LaLiberte, a research scientist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "These blooms may cause illnesses for those who come in contact with them or accidentally ingest water containing algae."

The most commonly reported symptoms of exposure to blue-green algae blooms include rashes, gastrointestinal ailments, and respiratory irritation, according to Mark Werner, a toxicologist with the Department of Health Services. People experiencing symptoms that may be due to blue-green algal exposure should contact their health care provider or the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Public health officials encourage people to always wash off after swimming in any lake, pond or river. Dogs should always be rinsed off with clean water to remove algae from their coat. If people have any doubts about the appearance of water, they should stay out. They should ensure that children and pets do not swim in or drink water with an algae bloom.

"A good rule for identifying blue-green algae is that if adults are in knee-deep water and can see their feet, the risk from blue-green algae is low to moderate, but it's still a good idea to avoid swallowing water," LaLiberte says. "When you can't see your feet, keep children and dogs out of the water, and consider having the whole family pursue another activity that day."

People are also encouraged to help out by reporting potential algae-related illnesses in both people and animals to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services by filling out an electronic form [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/bluegreenalgae/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/bluegreenalgae/) (exit DNR) or calling 608-266-1120.



Animals have a higher risk of dying after exposure to blue-green algae toxins because they are smaller in size and may ingest large amounts of toxins from drinking lake, pond, or river water or licking algae from their coat. Symptoms in dogs can include lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea or even seizures. If your animal shows any of these symptoms contact your veterinarian immediately.

Blooms tend to grow when there is a lot of sunlight, water temperatures are high, and there is little wind, with the number of blooms peaking from July to September.

Some bloom-forming blue-green algae species produce toxins that can cause rashes or gastrointestinal illness with ingestion. If ingested in high levels the toxins can harm the neurological system, liver or kidneys of people, pets, livestock and wildlife. Not all cyanobacteria produce toxins, but the presence of blue-green algae blooms in lakes, ponds, or rivers serves as an indication the public can use to identify a potential health hazard, according to LaLiberte.

# Our Next Meeting:

*See you in September!*

# Upcoming Meetings:

**Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>** BFF picnic  
Donald Park

**August 30 - September 1<sup>st</sup>** Wisconsin River trip

**September 16<sup>th</sup>** WSA monthly Meeting  
Dave McCoy "Door County: Finding and Catching  
Trophy Fall Smallmouth"

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!**