



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

August 2015

Club members visit the Flambeau for some musky and smallmouth action

by Jerry Pasdo

Photos by Andy Davidson

A recent trip, with initially seven anglers, was reduced to a hardy group of four after various summer conflicts surfaced. Bill Flaherty drove from LaCrosse, and Jerry Pasdo, Dan Johnson and Andy Davidson came from Madison area to Park Falls for two days of river fishing on the North Fork of the Flambeau.

Lodging for three nights was very comfortable at the Best Value America Inn and some of the evening dinners were adventurous in locations with Dan Johnson as our guide. I think Dan tried to get us as far out of Park Falls and to the remotest restaurants and bars that he could find. However, the dining was absolutely excellent and very, very affordable. But we were there for more than dining out.

The water we fished was about 15 miles west of Park Falls, and is surrounded by tall pines in the State Forest with barely any sign of human activity on the shores. After placing the shuttle vehicle at the takeout, the four embarked. Jerry (canoe), Bill (kayak) and Andy and Dan (drift boat) headed down the boulder strewn river.

The joy of river fishing for smallies is in searching for the right boulder, eddy, current breaks, or shoreline structure for fish. Top water produced minimum results so a switch to a white paddle tail, white fluke, or white/green wacky worm became the order of the day.

Jerry had all his success within a couple of feet of shore casting to any pocket that had at least two feet of quiet water. Often the fish sat just six inches from the bank or overhanging brush. The slow or often still current provided a base of attack for the smallmouth. On one cast, Jerry's wacky worm landed just on the gravel bank. A 15 inch smallie leaped out of the water and grabbed the bait from the dry land. That was a unique experience, but it shows how voracious are the attacks on bait by the river smallies.

Of course, there were muskies, too. A two and half to three foot musky grabbed one of Jerry's better smallmouth. This forced him to hold the rod in one hand and play the musky while pulling up the anchor with his other hand and his teeth, so as to not lose the fish.

With the swift current, all three headed downstream 75 to 100 yards with the musky just not letting go. Finally the larger predator felt that this was no ordinary smallmouth and let it go. The dazed smallmouth was released showing its battle scars. A similar incident but of a shorter duration, 10 seconds, occurred about two hours later.

The entire group caught in the area about 80 smallmouths during the trip, but a lot of the time, especially for Dan and Andy, was spent targeting muskies. In fact, most of the other fishermen we did encounter were after muskies, too. Some were in canoes, small motorboats, or a rubber raft. With all the bends in the river, even these fishermen were only visible for a short time. Most of the time it appeared we had the entire river to ourselves.

See photos on next page



Above: The current slips by Bill Flaherty's Kayak. Andy Davidson about to release one of the river's aggressive little muskies. Dan Johnson with one of the dark bronze backs. Right Jerry Pasdo waits as we gather for lunch.

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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.

Coyland Creek invites all area youngsters to their 10th annual “Youth in the Outdoors” day.

Frederic, WI - On Saturday, August 29th, 2015 Coyland Creek is once again opening their doors for the 10th Annual Youth in the Outdoors day. All area youth are invited to share the experience and continue the tradition known as the outdoors through a series of events taking place from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Events taking place include outdoor crafts and painting, outdoor demonstrations from several outdoor area businesses, orienteering, outdoor cooking,

canoeing, educational demonstrations, .22 & BB gun target shooting, casting activities, fly fishing and fly tying, archery shooting, safari van international, DNR “Wall of Shame” trailer, bounce house and much more.

Admission is free and door prizes will be awarded throughout the afternoon. A range of activities are targeted, but not limited to, kids from the ages 3-13. A free lunch and lemonade will be served to the kids, while food is available to purchase for adults.

Coyland Creek is located eight miles from Siren on County Road B, or eight miles from Lewis on County road E. For more information please contact Kelsie at 715-653-4273 or visit www.coylandcreek.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Boat for Sale

1997 Alumacraft Modified V Jon Boat
1997 Mercury Sea Pro very low hours
2013 Humminbird 598 ci HD locator with GPS, sidescan and downscan
2005 ShoreLander Trailer with spare tire. Less than 1,000 miles on trailer
MinnKota 40# trolling motor
New batteries last year (starting and trolling)
Decks are carpeted on marine plywood
One power pedestal, one seat with back rest, extra pedestal
Two velcro rod hold downs
All wood trim white oak or birch
Rod locker to accept 7'-6" rods
Cover
All screws stainless as well as stainless trim washers

Contact [Andy Davidson](#) for price and more details. He is offering a discount to club members. 608 338-2639

Originally built for fly fishing but good for all types of fishing. Great river boat. Reason for selling, bought a new boat.



Our Next Meeting:



Upcoming Events:

September 15th WSA monthly meeting
Ron Barefield
Fishing the Mississippi

September 28th BFF monthly meeting
Brian Ramsey
Paradise Valley Trout

October 20th WSA monthly meeting
Ted Peck - Fall fishing
on the Mississippi

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!**