



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing



March 2016

Join us at our 11th annual Fundraising Auction

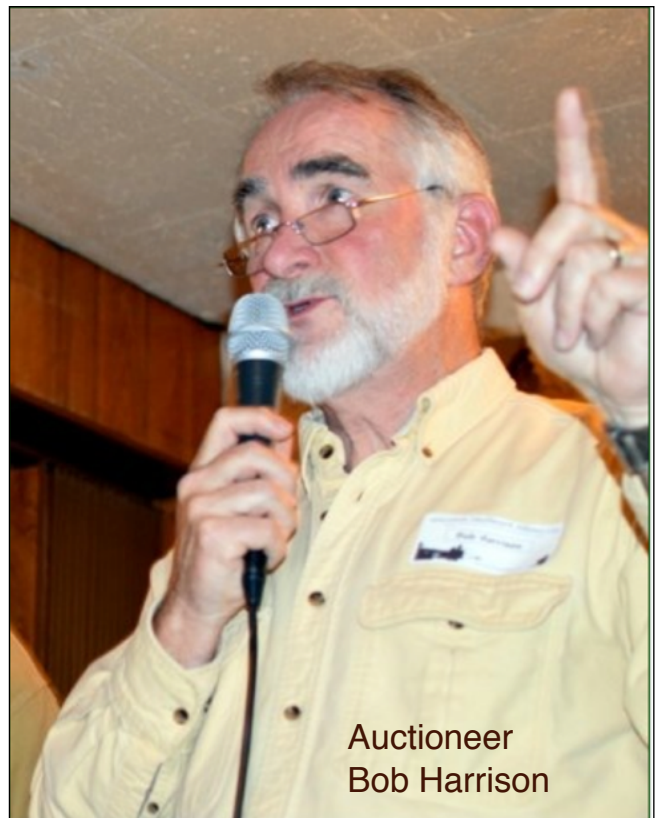
By Mike Simon

Mark April 19, 2016 on your calendar, as that's the date of our eleventh annual fundraiser at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. This year the doors will open at 5:30 to allow more time for socializing and dinner, and to give everyone more time to view the items up for bid, including bidding on the Silent Auction items. Winning bidders of the Silent Auction will be announced promptly at 6:45, followed immediately with the live auction. As always, this event is open to the public with no admission fee.

This year we'll be featuring trips to some of the best destinations in the Midwest for smallmouth bass. From the Mississippi to the Wisconsin, Lake Mendota to Lake Superior, we've got it covered. Please take time to go to the website to look at those trips. While you're there, check out the links to these guides and consider booking a trip for the upcoming season. You won't regret it.

We will also have rods, reels, bags, packs, flies, lures, and assorted gear for both the spin and fly angler. With names like St. Croix, Simms, Sage, Redington, Fishpond, Boga, Orvis, Shimano, and Bass Pro, we're able to cater to a broad spectrum of discriminating anglers. Also featured are items handcrafted by our talented members, including flies, lures, etc.

To appeal to an even wider range of attendees, we have art work in several mediums, gardening supplies by Fiskars, the very popular Stihl blower raffle, gift certificates, and goodies to satisfy your sweet tooth. Still looking for more? You can keep up with the growing list of auction items on our website.



**Auctioneer
Bob Harrison**

Please take the time to check it regularly. We will also have a list in the April newsletter.

I'm sure you are aware that we have this single event to fund the coming year's projects. Participation at any level is helpful. The single biggest thing our members can do is to attend the event and bring a friend or two. As many of you have experienced in the past, a roomful of people to enjoy the camaraderie and bid on the variety of items, sure adds to the enjoyment of the evening. If you have an items you'd like to contribute, please contact me or any of the board members listed on our web site.

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Distant members will once again have the opportunity to bid. If you are one of these members and see a trip or item of interest, contact me or another board member to place a bid for you.

As always, we remind everyone that all of this is made possible by our very generous donors in support of our club and its cause. These include generous guides who donate trips, business partners who donate fantastic merchandise, and our numerous members who contribute a variety of items. Please show your appreciation by patronizing them.

As a reminder, only cash or checks are accepted. By starting 15 min. earlier, the goal is to have the event wrapped up by 9 PM. Final details will be in the April newsletter and on our website. We look forward to seeing you there!

WHERE'S THE MONEY GOING?

With our eleventh annual fundraiser coming in April, we want to keep members and donors informed of how the money is appropriated. To date, \$26,535 has been donated to fund numerous projects.

Last year's projects were:

- Kids on Ice and Kids Summer Fishing Day in Dane Co. (this involves approx. 600 kids)
- Youth Conservation Days in Sauk Co. (this involves 1,400+ kids in Southern Wisconsin)
- Youth in the Outdoors in NW Wisconsin, benefiting over 200 kids
- Nesting cover brochures were printed in conjunction with the DNR, for distribution to educate groups on habitat improvement.
- The River Alliance of Wisconsin, Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, and the Upper Sugar River Watershed Assoc.: defenders of our waterways.
- We have partnered with the DNR and the Cooperative Fisheries Research unit at UW Stevens Point to provide transmitters for research on the lower Menomonee River
- Save the Wild UP environmental group

Information Coordinator needed

Longtime newsletter editor, Dan Johnson will be putting his last issue to bed with our May edition. Dan has always produced a four (or so) page tabloid which could be accessed on our website.

Since most of this information has already been incorporated within our website and Facebook page, the newsletter as a stand-alone will disappear. Instead a new page or two which will keep you informed of news, upcoming events, and things you need to know will be added.

We will still need a club member to coordinate this information and send it to our webmaster as a pdf file.

The club officers are currently looking for a volunteer to fill this position. If you are interested in helping your club this way, please contact one of the officers or board members.

You need only a basic command of spelling and grammar. You will not have to produce any material (photos or articles) yourself unless you wish to. And Dan will help you get started.

Not only does the club need new members to grow, but we need a couple every now and then who will step up and lend a hand. And really, that's all part of the fun too.

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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.

Baraboo River corridor plans

By Jerry Pasdo

MSA Professional Services, project engineers, are coordinating focus groups and are looking for various organizations to contribute comments into various aspects for improving the Baraboo River from North Freedom to the City of Baraboo.

Those of you familiar with the Baraboo River can remember that many of the dams have been removed on the river, but there is still a lot of siltation, tree downfalls, and very unimproved and inaccessible regions.

These are just preliminary discussions and the group is looking for input into areas such as education, environmental, and business for that entire river way. Our smallmouth would probably fall under environmental and waterway uses.

If anyone is interested in attending some of the initial plans, please feel free to contact Jerry Pasdo (608) 345-2198 japasdo@gmail.com. I have the scope of services, which includes an inventory of analysis, stakeholder needs assessment, and some other agenda items for the plan. I also have an initial agenda and preliminary schedule of meetings.

These project meetings are starting immediately with sessions running from now through the middle of April. Any input would be appreciated by the Corridor Planning group.

Orvis Madison free fly-fishing workshops

All workshops are free to the public and are held from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

March 10: Early-Season Trout Fishing in the Driftless

Orvis-endorsed guide Dave Barron, owner of Jacquish Hollow Angler, will discuss tips and techniques to increase your enjoyment and success in Wisconsin's "trout factory."

March 14: Early Season Tactics for Smallmouth Bass

Kip Vieth, Orvis-endorsed guide and owner of Wildwood Float Trips in Minnesota, divulges some of his secrets for early-season smallmouth success.

April 7: Urban Fishing in Madison

Carp-whisperer Israel Dunn gives us the rundown on shore-fishing hot spots and tactics for having fun in the "urban jungle," from carp to bluegills to bass.

May 12: Online Recon for Better Fishing

Orvis Madison Fishing Manager Tristan Kloss shows you some of the websites, apps, and software for improving your fishing game—without leaving the couch!

June 9: Small Stream Smallmouth on the Fly

Orvis Madison Fishing Manager Tristan Kloss will discuss fishing small streams for smallmouth bass and the gear and tactics needed to catch bronze-back in smaller waters.

July 14: Troutin' Tenkara Style

Have you tenkara'd yet? The traditional Japanese style of fixed-line fly fishing is gaining steam. Tenkara expert Matt Sment will discuss the effectiveness of tenkara for trout and bass.

Call us at 608-831-3181 for information on upcoming classes and seminars this season.

Our Next Meeting:

March 15th

Fishing the Upper Mississippi River

By Kip Vieth, owner and operator of Wildwood Float Trips

Kip's favorite fishery is the Upper Mississippi River. Most of the country thinks of the Mississippi as a big, muddy, polluted, ugly river.

In Minnesota, nothing could be further from the truth. It is a gin-clear, shallow and during the heat of the summer looks a lot like a western trout stream.

He thinks that it is the finest warmwater fishery in the country.

From smallmouth bass to the alpha predator, the musky, and everything in between, it is a great and under-appreciated resource.



Upcoming Events:

March 15th WSA monthly meeting
Kip Vieth of Wildwood Float Trips

April 19th WSA monthly meeting
Annual Fundraising
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!**