



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Ltd.

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

September 2017

Monthly Meetings

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland.

Sept. 19 River Alliance discussing Aquatic Invasives

Oct. 17 Mike D'Onofrio, WDNR, NE Wis SM bass rivers

Nov. 21 Fishing the Yucatan

Jan. 23 To be announced

Feb. 26 (Mon) with BFF, Luke Kavajecz from Anglers All

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Meets 2nd Tuesday of month (Except Jul /Aug) 7 p.m. at the Coliseum Bar, Olin Ave, Madison

Badger Flyfishers

Meets 4th Monday of month Maple Tree, McFarland

Yahara Fishing Club

Meets 2nd Wednesday of month 6:30 pm, VFW Hall 301 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison

Capital City Muskies

Sept 11, 7 pm - Matt Raley on Vilas & Oneida county lakes. 5100 Bar and Hall, 5100 Erling Av. McFarland

Club Information

wisconsin-smallmouth.com
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A HUGE WSA SHOUT-OUT TO PAT EHLERS

By Mike Simon

We owe a big *Thank You* to Pat for his contribution of \$3,700 to our club as a part of the proceeds raised at IF4 this past spring. SE WI Trout Unlimited also benefited. This will go a long way towards our support of numerous children's programs that now benefit nearly 3,000 kids, and towards the awareness and conservation of the unique smallmouth bass fishery our state has to offer.

Thank you to all who helped at the event and to Pat for his generosity. Please take time to visit and patronize Pat and the gang at The Fly Fishers fly shop in Milwaukee. You won't be disappointed.



THE INVASIVES ARE HERE

Our presenter for September 19 is **Amanda Perdzock of the River Alliance**. She will be discussing more than New Zealand Mudsnails. Many other invasives are making an inroad and they are not all in the water, but they are affecting our streams and habitat. Amanda will be helping us identify these and showing what we can do to curtail/eradicate them.

Amanda joined the River Alliance in April 2016 as our statewide aquatic invasive species



program director. Prior to her work at the River Alliance, Amanda served as a statewide AIS monitoring and response specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She developed protocols for responding to new populations of invasive species.

A Wisconsin native, Amanda graduated from the UW-Madison in 2008 with a degree in conservation biology and a certificate in environmental studies.

While attending UW she took part in a Nelson Institute practicum studying the impact of salt water intrusion on plant communities in a degraded cypress swamp in New Orleans.

ACKNOWLEDGING WSA SUPPORT

Our spring event and Pat Ehlers IF4 continue to generate funds which WSA distributes to worthwhile groups. Mike and I continue to receive acknowledgements from these groups. We received a *Thank You* from Youth in the Outdoors. Funds helped 150-200 kids in Siren/Burnett County with outdoor activities such as canoeing, orienteering, fly tying, flyfishing, BB gun and .22 shooting, etc. Participants get a free lunch, small prize, and door prizes. Coyland Game Preserve was the sponsor.

We also received a handwritten *Thank You* from Rich DeWitte of the Grant County Sport Alliance for WSA support of *Learn To Fish* held at Wyalusing State Park. The event covered fish ID, knot tying, fly tying, water safety, etc. Each participant received a small tackle box with lures, a fishing rod, and a T-shirt with their favorite fish. They also fished with a mentor on the Mississippi River. The kids came from non-fishing families, a great way to carry our sport into the next generation.



John Simon
St. Croix River
July 2017



**Tim
Holschlag**

EARLY FALL SMALLMOUTH TIPS

Early Fall Period (70 to 58 Degrees)

Early fall fishing can be the most productive of the year. The Smallies metabolism is high but no new crawfish or minnows are being produced so food sources are diminishing, but fish need nutrients to get ready for the egg and sperm development. Low light means less visibility so midday fish are easier to catch. The downside are extreme temperature changes and cold fronts.

Fish Locations

While the temperatures remain in the mid 60s or higher, Smallies will be in late summer hunts, and a variety of baits and techniques are all effective. But as temperatures continue to decline crayfish become less active and less available, plus they quit molting which means they are hard-shelled all the time and less appealing.

So some of the Smallies start feeding heavily on minnows. On larger midsize waterways these minnow-foraging hotspots are primarily runs, flats, and tails of pools.

Angling Methods

At the beginning of this early fall surface fishing can be terrific, especially with propeller top-waters and stick baits worked across tails of pools. But once smallmouth start to focus on minnows the fish will take a variety of shallow run, minnow imitating lures and your catch rates will really skyrocket.

Thin profile crank baits are specially deadly, but jigs and in-line spinners worked mid-depth can also load the boat. Minnow swing is a good mid-depth technique for early fall. When I am float fishing at this time of year I often move down stream, quickly targeting only runs in flats with concentrations of active Smallies. Many of the early fall bronze my clients hook are not big, but some are hefty specimens and adding a few big boys to all of those smaller fish means exciting action-packed days.

From *River Smallmouth Fishing*
Tim Holschlag, smallmouthangler.com