



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

December 2008

DNR reports first silver carp in Wisconsin waters

LA CROSSE – The infamous silver carp, or “jumping carp,” has been found in the Mississippi River near La Crosse. This is the first confirmed identification of a silver carp upstream of Clinton, Iowa, and the first identified in Wisconsin waters.

Fisheries supervisor Ron Benjamin of the state Department of Natural Resources said a single silver carp was among three species of invasive Asian carp discovered late last week in a commercial fishing net deployed in the Mississippi River near La Crosse. It was not immediately identified.

Two grass carp and one or two bighead carp were also pulled from the net.

Biologists from Wisconsin and Minnesota are working together to determine the extent of the problem. It is not yet known if more silver carp are in the river, or whether there are enough of them to support reproduction. Nor is it known whether the habitat in the northern Mississippi River will support a reproducing population of silver carp.

Silver carp have been known to cause injury to boaters. The vibration of a spinning propeller excites these large fish and boaters have been struck when they leap out of the water. Invasive carp also damage aquatic plants important to native fish species.

“A common question is to ask what will be the impact of Asian carp to the river that we love,” said Benjamin. “The short answer today is it clearly isn’t good. Aquatic invasive species are detrimental to native aquatic ecosystems.”

Asian carp were imported by the aquaculture industry for vegetation removal, snail control and as a source of protein. The four species imported were



US Fish and Wildlife Service photo

grass carp, bighead carp, silver carp and black carp. All have to some extent escaped into the wild, typically when flood waters carried them out of commercial ponds.

In the Wisconsin portion of the Mississippi River grass carp have been found in low numbers since 1987. Bighead carp were caught by commercial fisherman at the mouth of the St. Croix River in 1998, in Lake Pepin in 2003 and 2007, and now in pool 8 for the first time.

Black carp have not been reported in Wisconsin to date.

Benjamin said it is likely these invasive species moved north during the record floods this past spring. Lock and dam structures are a barrier to upstream migrations, but when flood waters topped the dams there was nothing to stop fish from swimming upstream.

Interestingly, Benjamin said, biologists have been finding Skipjack herring, an endangered native fish, in Pool 8 of the Mississippi River at La Crosse. These fish were previously found only farther to the south. So the flood waters helped re-introduce a native species to pool 8.

The News- letter needs your help

In order to provide the club with a newsletter that not only keeps the membership updated as to upcoming meetings, events and club activities, but also offers pertinent and timely information, useful angling tips, and even a bit of entertainment, your editor needs your help and participation.

Submissions are both desired and greatly appreciated. Don't think that you need to be a great writer or photographer to contribute. We have no one to please but ourselves. Besides, the editor can make any necessary changes.

Send your contributions to me at johnson7@tds.net

- | News & Calendar events
- | Feature articles & photographs
- | Trip reports
- | Stories & Poetry
- | Illustrations
- | Book and video reviews
- | What have you got?

Time to renew your membership

All annual memberships for the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance, LTD run from January through December. Your membership expires December 2008.

Please consider renewing now for the 2009 season. We rely on membership dues and the bucket raffle proceeds to cover the cost of our newsletter and speaker's fees. We appreciate your contributions in the past and hope you consider renewing now while it's fresh on your mind.

Single memberships are \$20 and family memberships are \$25. Please make your check payable to WSA and mail it to: WSA, 2701 Gust Rd. Verona, WI 53593

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Articles, photos, information, and calendar events for the newsletter are encouraged and should be submitted by the 1st day of the month of issue to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St., Madison WI 53711. If possible, MSWord files sent to: johnson7@tds.net are most appreciated.

Our Next Meeting:

Tuesday
December 16th
Mapletree Restaurant
McFarland

Holiday Banquet — with guest speaker, John Galligan



Tuesday, December 16th is the day. And once again we will be joined by our friends, the Badger Fly Fishers.

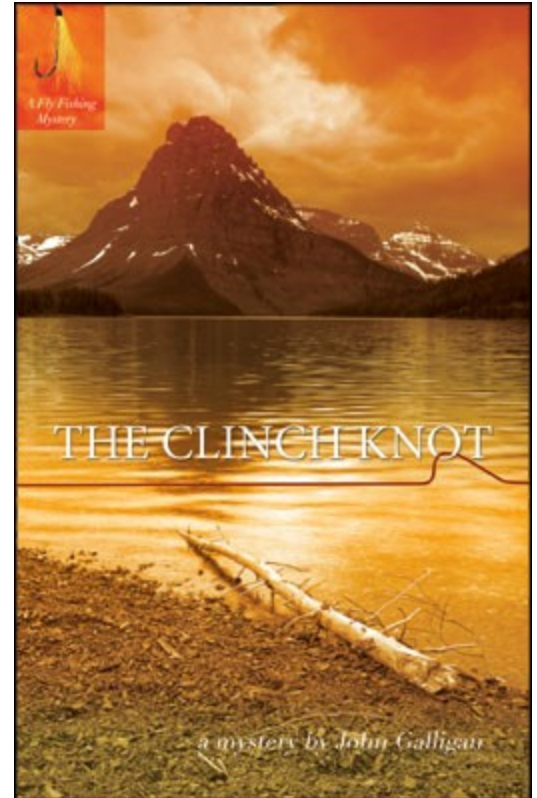
Dinner, which begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be served family style, includes: salad, chicken, fish, pork roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, a selection of pies, and coffee —all for just \$15.00 per person.

You may wish to arrive earlier and enjoy a cocktail or two as well.

After dinner we will have a program presented by John Galligan. John is a fly fisher, teacher and writer who lives in Madison and is author of *The Nail Knot*, *The Blood Knot* and *The Clinch Knot*.

This fly fishing mystery series, featuring trout bum/sleuth Ned “The Dog” Oglivie, has become a favorite of many of our members. The first two titles are set in Southern Wisconsin

So, do plan to be with us



Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, December 16th 6:30 P.M.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA and BFF Christmas Banquet.
See details this issue.