



# THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

January 2009

## Favorite baits:

### The Craw Bug



**C**rawdads to smallmouth are like pizza to teenagers, not only are they one of the four major food groups, they're on top.

So it's not surprising that an awful lot of the stuff in our tackle boxes is designed to imitate these little mud bugs.

When the bite is on, many anglers will reach for a jig and pig, while others might opt for a crankbait, but I'll usually try a craw bug first.

These soft plastic baits are a type of creature bait, but there's no doubt what kind of creature they imitate. They are molded, and quite realistically too, to resemble crawfish.

But unlike most creature baits, they are also hollow like a tube bait. And everyone knows how effective tubes are for enticing smallies.

It's this property that suggests one of the best

ways to rig them.

You just insert a tube jig head and you're all set to begin fishing.

But just like other soft plastics, there seems to be no end to the ways that they can be rigged.

Putting them on a stand-up jig head or a football head puts the weight on the outside where it allows you to feel a very definite tic as it bounces over a rocky bottom.

Or try a weedless Texas rig with no weight at all, and drag one through a reed bed or over lily pads for an explosive strike from an opportunistic bass.

You'll find a number of manufacturers putting craw bugs in their offerings nowadays, but my favorite remains the one made by Yum. With three sizes (2½, 3¼, and 4 inches) and 16 colors to choose from, you have plenty of options to "match the hatch."

If you have a favorite bait, fly or technique, send it to the newsletter editor and we can keep this going as a regular monthly item in The Smallmouth Horizon.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:johnson7@tds.net) are most appreciated.



**I**n response to last month's story about Asian carp appearing in the Mississippi River, Burl Lane, who lives in Wilmette, Illinois, sent us this picture of himself and his grandson, 9 year old Lane Gretka of Grayslake Illinois, fishing pool 11 near Guttenberg.

Among the catch was the Asian carp pictured at the right.



**O**f course the real pursuit is for smallies and, left, Lane proudly shows the 17 inch he caught on 6 lb. line. Lane has been fishing with his grandfather for a few years now and is completely "hooked" on the sport.

He is also dedicated to the practice of catch and release angling.

## Our Next Meeting:

## In Pursuit of the Waterwolf: The Video



Filmed in some of the most pike infested waters of North America. From little known rivers and tributaries of the mighty Yukon River in Alaska to the massive water sheds of Wollaston Lake, follow along as Barry Reynolds shares with you some of the exciting action a fly angler can expect to find while pursuing the great Northern Pike on the fly.

Eight pike of over 50 inches were taken during production including Barry's new personal best a monster pike of 54 inches in length and 28 inches in girth.

Sure to please all, Pike on the Fly "In Pursuit of the Water Wolf" will entertain those who love to fish!

## Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 P.M.  
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland  
WSA monthly meeting. Video presentation  
Pike on the Fly: In Pursuit of the Waterwolf
- Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 P.M.  
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland  
BFF monthly meeting.  
Bill Engber and Jim Bartelt, "Brookies and Bears"  
Fishing Hudson Bay's Sutton River Estuary
- Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 A.M.  
Turners Hall, Madison  
BFF Spring Opener. Terry and Roxanne Wilson,  
"Catching More and Larger Bluegills" and  
"Largemouth Bass, Beyond the Basics."  
Tim Landwehr, "Smallmouth Fishing in Wisconsin."
- Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 P.M.  
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland  
WSA monthly meeting.  
Program T.B.A.
- Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 P.M.  
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland  
BFF monthly meeting.  
Bob Harrison, "British Columbia Cutthroats"