



# THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

*Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing*

August 2011

## Cold front no problem on the Menominee

By Steve Winters

We are going on several fishing trips this year, from taking our granddaughter fishing in Oregon, to a trout fishing trip in Utah, to the waters bordering and in the U.P., but the trip that I was looking forward to the most all winter was the one to the Menominee River with my son, John in early June.

John had joined me for a couple of days up there last year, loved the river, and we had four days planned for this year. John lives near Denver, and so we don't get to spend as much time together as we wish we could, so those four days were eagerly anticipated by both of us.

There are a few things I have convinced myself of over the years and one of them is that smallmouth bass and the carp in Lake Michigan hate cold fronts more than any other fish I can think of.

About ten days before John's arrival, I was checking the weather forecast & river flows in northeastern Wisconsin on a daily basis. The river flows were fine, but as the date rolled closer, it appeared imminent that our arrival in the north woods would be at precisely the same time the mother of all cold fronts would be visiting there as well, and for the same four days we intended to fish.



Well, the plane tickets were paid for, the vacation days for both of us were scheduled, as was a guide for a day, and our motel room, and so cold front or not, we were going to Pembine for some fishing, bonding and catching up.

I warned John that I had very slim hopes for the catching part of the trip, but that I was quite sure we would have a good time anyway. Sometimes I can be terribly wrong. Thank God this was one of those times.

The carp in Lake Michigan are still on my shortened list of fish that really abhor cold fronts, until they should prove otherwise some day, but the bass

on this trip were as cooperative as I have ever seen them, and we were not targeting spawning fish. We had a marvelous time, complete with some big fish stories and pictures. The point of this story is that when the opportunity arrives, and the conditions are not so bad that they are more uncomfortable than is justified, or downright dangerous (which was the case two weeks later on a trip with Nancy) one should simply anticipate success & go fishing.

The cold fronts that roll through will probably limit success on some future trips, as will a number of other factors beyond our control, but from now on, I will try to keep a more positive attitude regardless of anticipated conditions and will probably find that lots of the days that I thought were less than ideal turn out to be pretty good days on the water.

As we all know, even a mediocre day fishing beats a good day at work.

Obituary

# Cliff Herron, maker of custom reels

By Steve Winters

On July 16, 2011 Cliff Herron, who built some of the world's finest fly reels for many years, died of cancer.

Cliff enjoyed hunting and fishing, and for many years his favorite pastime was fishing the small spring creeks near his home north of Westfield, WI.

Cliff had fished those streams for years and finally left his life with Corporate America where he was a supervisor at a large manufacturer near Chicago to move to the area and open his business of building fly reels for other fishermen.

The bane of most small reel makers, anodizing various components in the reel, finally got so costly and frustrating, that he stopped production about eight years ago, and went to work for a small machining company in Westfield. When they closed, he took a maintenance job with Oscar Meyer in Madison.

Cliff is survived by a daughter, Lisa Herron and a son, Jonathon, as well as his long-time companion, Donna Bemis.

He also left behind many friends with finely crafted reels that were built to last for generations. Not a bad legacy.



## Aug. 19 training set to help paddlers detect aquatic invaders on rivers

Paddlers, anglers, water quality monitors, and others can learn how to monitor their favorite rivers for invasive species during a free workshop Aug. 19, 2011, at the Navarino Nature Center in Shiocton.

The session runs from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the nature center, W5646 Lindsten Road in Shiocton.

The Department of Natural Resources and the River Alliance of Wisconsin are sponsoring the workshop. Participants will learn how to monitor their river by canoe, kayak, or on foot for 16 species of concern, following procedures developed by the river alliance as part of their Project RED (Riverine Early Detectors) program.

[\[http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/conservation-projects/project-red-riverine-early-detectors\]](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/conservation-projects/project-red-riverine-early-detectors)

Participants also will learn how to choose locations and a monitoring schedule that are convenient for participants and their volunteers, and how to use online tools to report findings of invasives, according to Brenda Nordin, the DNR aquatic invasive species specialist who will teach the workshop.

"The protocols are easy and fun," Nordin says. "You can also use this activity to become more familiar with your river or stream and to engage your friends and neighbors!"

The 16 species of concern are purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hops, phragmites, flowering rush, hydrilla, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, yellow floating heart, Brazilian waterweed, didymo, zebra mussel, quagga mussel, New Zealand mudsnail, faucet snails, and Louisiana red swamp crayfish.

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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 to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St. Madison, WI 53711. Word files sent to: [johnson7@tds.net](mailto:johnson7@tds.net) are most appreciated.

# Our Next Meeting:

**Tuesday  
September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**We have a few items left from the April fundraiser to be used in a silent auction to start the September meeting.**

**Come early for dinner. The auction will close at 7:15 and the speaker will start at 7:30.**

**A list of items, along with pictures, will be in the September newsletter.**

# Upcoming Events:

**Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**  
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

**WSA Monthly Meeting**  
John Cantwell - "Smallmouth lakes in the  
Northern Highland State Forrest"

**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.**