



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

March 2012

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance, Ltd. 7th Annual Trash and Treasure Auction to be held April 17, 2012

by Mike Simon, Auction chairman

It's time to get everyone thinking about our annual fundraising auction!

We'll be following the successful formula of years past. Back by popular demand will be auctioneer Bob Harrison, and a cast of thousands. Bob's ability to keep things moving has proved to be invaluable.

Help is needed in soliciting items, as well as donating or hand-crafting items your self. It is important that we don't over extend our welcome by repeating solicitations to the same donors. We have volunteers to contact St. Croix Rod, Dorn Hardware, Orvis, D&S Bait, River's Edge, the Shoe Box, Gander Mtn., and Fontana.

Don't hesitate to call me to see if the place you have in mind had already been contacted. Please notify me of donations so we can update the auction list both on our web site and for the newsletter of donated or solicited items.

Many of us use the auction to buy flies for the coming year. The club will furnish as many boxes as we can to the excellent tiers who are members or supporters of our club. Please call if you can tie a dozen or two flies for the auction and need a box.

We have some wonderful trips donated by long time WSA supporters like Roger and Carolyn Lapenter of Angler's All and Kip Vieth of Wildwood Float Trips, who will be offering a days guided fishing to some of the Midwest's premier Smallmouth destinations.

If you have fished with someone and think they might be able to help us with our fundraiser, it would be greatly appreciated. You might even consider donating your time to take a successful bidder fishing with you for a day, could be for smallies, trout, muskies, etc. As you know, many of our members live outside of the area and can't attend the auction. Again this year will be an opportunity for our distant members to bid. If you are one of those members and see a trip or item of interest on the website, contact

me or another board member (contact info is on page two) to put in your bid and assign someone to bid for you, up to a given amount. This is one way we can appeal to more bidders.

Most important to having a successful auction is **attendance**. Everyone can help by attending and



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bringing a guest, or two. This year we have many great items for bid, but the auction is only as good as the number of bidders present. If you've been at past auctions, you have seen how much fun a room full of people can have bidding on these treasures!

This is the one time of the year that every member can pitch in and help the club, and have a lot of fun doing it.

To help speed-up the auction again this year, the following procedures will be in place: Bids under \$100 will be in \$2 increments, and bids over \$100 will be in \$5 increments. We feel this will help expedite the auction as we're hoping to finish as close to 9:00 p.m. as possible. We will also have two cashiers checking people out. A reminder - only cash or checks are accepted as payment for items.

WHERE'S THE MONEY GOING?

With our seventh fundraiser coming up in April, it's only appropriate to inform our members and donors how we're spending the money. Over the past six years, we have contributed nearly \$14,000 to various causes. Last year we contributed to the following:

- Kids on Ice event here in Dane Co.
- Youth Conservation Days in Sauk Co.
- Youth in the Outdoors in Polk and Burnett Co.

(These donations have helped over 1,400 kids become more aware of what the outdoors has to offer.)

- The River Alliance of Wisconsin, an organization that keeps a watchful eye on the rivers around our state, and home to some of the best smallmouth fishing around.

- The Apple River Restoration project in northwestern Wisconsin. We are in the final year of a three year commitment to assist in restocking the upper 20 miles of this pristine river.

It is important to remember that none of this would be possible without donors contributing many wonderful items for auction, including guides who donate trips and business partners who donate merchandise.

Our members also donate a variety of items. Our website will list individuals and businesses, along with the items they donate. Check it out, as we will update it regularly.



The Lower Wisconsin River is at risk of alien invasive species invasion due to its connection to the Mississippi River

[The Lower Wisconsin River Basin AIS Working Group](#) invites members of sporting, recreational, and conservation clubs, natural resource managers, and interested citizens to meet to learn about invasive species issues.

They will discuss and plan strategies to prevent their introduction and spread in the river.

The meetings, which are organized by River Alliance of Wisconsin, are at the Kratchowill Memorial Building, 206 N. Wisconsin Ave. Muscoda, will be held on each of the following dates: Wednesday, February 22, 6-8 p.m.; Wednesday, April 25, 6-8 p.m.; Wednesday, June 27, 6-8 p.m.

Choosing to save a river is more often an act of passion than of careful calculation.

You make the choice because the river has touched your life in an intimate and irreversible way, because you are unwilling to accept its loss.

David Bolling

Club trip scheduled for June 22nd - 24th

A number of years ago our club did a spring trip to the Bittersweet Lakes Natural Area just east of Woodruff, Wisconsin.

This area consists of four lakes: Prong (30 acres 50 feet deep), Bittersweet (104 acres 31 feet deep), Smith (43 acres 18 feet deep), and Oberlin (46 acres 25 feet deep). These lakes are primarily largemouth lakes with a catch and release regulation on all four.

Bittersweet also has a decent population of Northern Pike in addition to largemouth bass and all of the lakes have decent (sometimes quite large bluegill). Access to the lakes is by a walk-in trail about 3/8 mile long.

There are no houses or structures on any of these lakes, and the fishing can be terrific. Prong is the deepest and clearest of the lakes followed by Bittersweet. Smith is fairly dark, and I have never made it to Oberlin.

Accommodations are easily available from camping, to motels, resorts, and B&B's.

As far as boats; canoes, float tubes, or inflatable pontoons seem to be the most sensible options.

Contact, Andy Davidson if you are interested, cell phone (608)338-2639.

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

is offering a free fly casting clinic on Saturday, April 14, at Salmo Pond.

The clinic begins at 9:00 a.m. For more information contact [Jeff Smith](#).

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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 are most appreciated.

Our Next Meeting:

**Tuesday
March 20th**

Randy Williams and Louis Woods: Fishing the Wolf River, its flowages and Lake Winnebago

Randy Williams is a guide in the New London area and is on the staff of the [Wolf River Outfitters](#) based in Fremont Wisconsin. He currently has the most fish species caught in the state for the *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine multiple species category. Randy has contributed to articles in the *Wisconsin Outdoor Journal*, and *Wisconsin Outdoors*, and is a team member of the No Excuses televised hunting and fishing show. www.noexcusestv.com

As a retired teacher he can now fish full time. He has won over forty tournaments, but now prefers to guide and fish for fun.

Louis Woods, also guides out of Wolf River Outfitters. He has 35 years of experience on the Wolf system.

Fishing the Wolf does give people problems with big water. I am here to make things a lot easier for you. He will tell us how to locate the fish and navigate the river system.

Raised in Fremont on the river system, he has been on the water most of his life. Louis understands that small changes in the structure make a difference in his success.



Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, March 20th 7:00 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 26th 7:00 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

BFF Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 17th 6:30 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA Monthly Meeting
Trash and Treasure 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!**