



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

May 2012

Many thanks to all who made Trash & Treasure auction a success

by Mike Simon, auction chairman

Our seventh annual fundraiser proved to be both successful and profitable. The club netted \$3,959.30 to be used towards this year's projects. Since 2006 we have raised \$30,256.58. We have been able to fund many worthwhile projects and have gotten thousands of young people exposed to fishing, over the past seven years.

Many thanks are due. First of all, thank you to those who attended and for their generosity. We had some real quality items up for bid and attendees went home with some great stuff to add to their arsenals.

Kudos to those talented individuals who hand-crafted items from food, to lures and flies, your handi-crafts always are a big part of the event.

A special thank you to all the guides who donated trips this year, and especially to Roger Lapenter and Kip Vieth who have donated a trip every year since 2006. Check out our website for contact information, and take time to book a trip with these guides. It'll be the highlight of your summer!

We also need to recognize the businesses and companies who generously donated items again this year. Our patronage will certainly help this tradition to continue.

And finally thanks to the board members for their help in organizing the event and solicitation of items, to Bob for being our auctioneer, and to Kathy and Linda for help at the desk and accounting.

We are already looking forward to next year for ideas. We've got some items with a little different flair in mind. If anyone has suggestions that might make our event unique, please contact any board member. We look forward to next April 16, 2013. We hope you'll come and join the fun and help support our club!

Bill Schultz will host "Smallie weekend in Door County"

On page 4. you will find the registration form for "Smallie Weekend in Door County".

This is a weekend for both powered boat guys and kayakers and should be great time and hopefully produce some big smallies.

Also, if you have your own lodging in Door County, you're still very welcome to join in.

By the way, this can be a fun weekend for spouse or significant other. There are nice shops, including yarn shop in Sturgeon Bay. And, depending

on where you might launch, fun things to do in all the communities up and down the peninsula.

Across from the Best Western is the nice Neighborhood Grille and there other really nice restaurants right in Sturgeon Bay.

On Friday evening we will plan to be done by 8:30 p.m. so you can go out to dinner, and on Saturday the same.

Bill is planning to stay both Monday and Tuesday, so if you are also, he will continue touch base on the fishing.

If you have any questions at all, please email Bill at smalliecentral@gmail.com

Wacky worm fishing

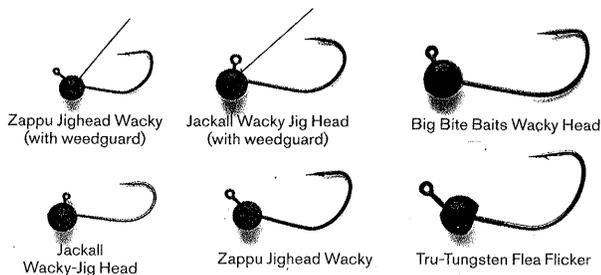
by Jerry Pasdo

Wacky fishing has been quite popular for many species of fish, but has become very successful for smallmouth as of late. It is a finesse technique that would be used in areas you feel hold fish, or where you have caught fish before.

This slow, deliberate fishing method imitates a dying or wounded bait fish, and invites an opportunity for smallmouth to latch on. If you want to scout an area, it's best to fish with crankbaits, spinnerbaits, or jigs with grubs.

If you are consistently catching fish and it has died down, the school is probably still there. Try a couple casts with wacky outfit. You can even use this method as a follow up to a missed fish from a cast with one of the previously mentioned baits.

One of the more successful methods in using the wacky rig is with a light weight jig, 1/16 to 1/4 ounce, that has no collar and a wide gap hook. When twitching the line the jig acts as a pivot point for the worm to give its dying wiggle.



If you let the jig fall to the bottom, jig it minimally on the way down, and let it settle for a few seconds. Watch your line during that fall and slightly after the drop, because very often that is when the fish grabs on. You can also judge your drop time by monitoring the fall along side your boat and knowing the depth you're in.

After the jig has rested for a couple of seconds, begin your twitching retrieve, but keep the line taut to feel sensitive bites. It is very helpful to imagine how your bait is reacting to your rod's movement, much

like creating the frantic swimming motion of a streamer fly. Keep your wiggles short so you can keep the bait in the catch zone.

Depending on the weight of your jig, you can continue this twitching motion almost all the way to the boat. Experiment with different depths because the fish could be suspended.

Mono-fluorocarbon line is the best to use in this tactic because it will sink better. The rod of choice is a 6 1/2 to 7 foot medium light spooled with 8 pound test line. If you are fishing in extremely clear water, you may want to lighten up to 6 pound test. If you are in a shallow stream, fishing above submerged weeds, another successful tactic that you may want to use is braided line which is more buoyant. Add 6 inches of fluoro leader with a uni-knot. This will make the line even more sensitive to any nibbles.

The use of the jig is more prevalent in deeper water, and you can even use a weedless jig if you are going to be pulling it through weeds.

Using a circle hook alone will minimize the sink rate, especially in the shallows in lakes and streams. You can use this method to twitch across the top of a weed bed. The constant wiggling and pausing motion will almost always keep the bait in the zone.

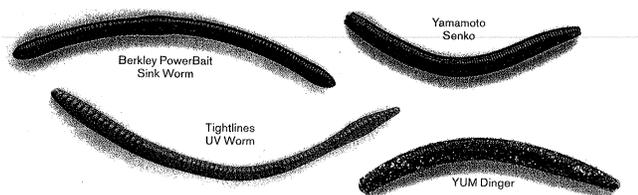
The addition of a small, pinched-on sinker 15 inches above the bait can be used to adjust for depth. Visualize where your bait is as it drifts along the bottom, moves downstream, or wiggles above the weeds. The use of a circle almost always guarantees a hook-set in the side of the mouth - an easy release. This was just one of the tips learned on a Kip Veith guided trip.

Another technique is to slip the hook 1/3 of the way down and watch it move even more erratically. The bait will dive quicker and dart sideways. As with many plastics, tie a small barrel swivel two inches above the bait to minimize line twist. Practice along side the boat and gauge the rate of your decent and the motion desired.

It is important to inspect your worm after each fish, caught or missed, for tears in the bait. Just move the hook slightly and keep fishing. Another method to keep the hook from tearing out is to use a small rubber O-ring that can be used with a special tool sold as part of an O-ring kit. The ring slips over the worm, and the hook goes under the ring. This spreads the pressure points and adds to the life of the bait. (*Editor's note: Guide Ron Barefield suggests hooking through a collar made from a short piece of heat-shrink tube.*)

Continued on next page

Fishermen should experiment with colors and patterns. When fishing in stained or muddy water a chartreuse top and white bottom has been a go-to bait. But we have used it in the green algae colored water of the Mendota/Monona chain at times too. In the spring before the bloom, natural colors with some fleck, have worked well too.



Senkos, YUM dingers, and various Berkley products will complete your arsenal. Some of the baits will sink faster than others, jig or no jig. Much has been written about sizes - four inches in spring, and six inches in the fall. The writer has had more success changing colors rather than changing sizes.

When river or stream fishing, quarter cast up stream toward likely spots holding smallmouth. Let the bait float down naturally, without drag, and twitch it to create the dying fish motion. As soon as the line drags, reel it in. When anchoring or wading mid-stream, cast to the nearest likely areas first so as not to spook other fish. This may not always be true because caught fish sometimes create excitement in others.

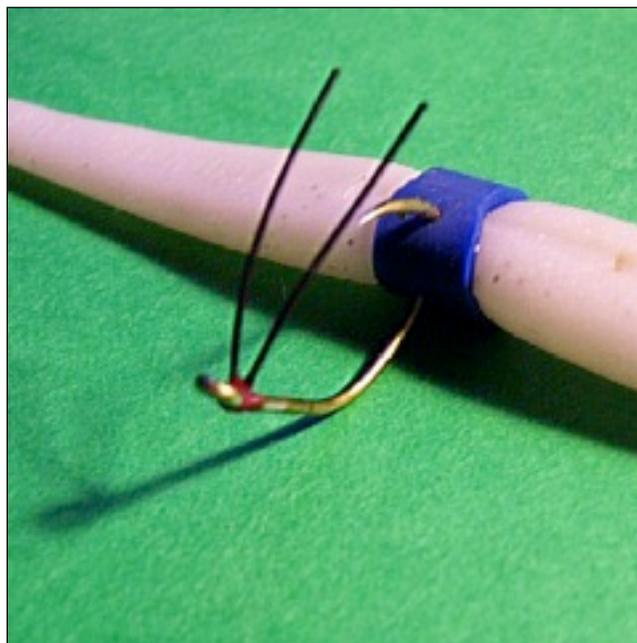
Casting into undercut banks and brush, or into overhanging trees, will offer the same chances of success as fly casting a streamer into those same locations. In faster currents, a drop shot rig will slow the drift as the weight bounces off the bottom, and the twitched wacky gyrates four to eight inches off the bottom.

The drop shot hook should be tied 18 to 24 inches above the weight, because the current will pull the bait faster. Remember not to create an unnatural drag. Again, a few minutes of practice alongside the boat will allow you to judge the presentation.

If someone wants to experiment, an additional presentation method is under a float. This restricts your area of presentation even more, but it does keep your bait hovering in a select area. You can use a slip float for longer casts, or a fixed one such as the plastic adjust-a-bubble. This method can be used for in lakes, or when bank fishing along a river, to keep your bait slightly above the bottom.

You will soon find out, after a snag, how deep you should be setting your jig. A properly weighted jig at the end of 15 inches of mono/fluoro, with the bobber set at the appropriate depth, is all you would need. If unsure of an area and you anticipate snags, use a lighter weight line below the swivel from your main line, so that your jig is all that would break off if you do snag. Look out for drag and keep twitching the bait to create that dying motion.

Not only will you catch smallies, but this dying minnow/worm bait will attract any larger predatory fish too. Besides many bass, 2011 saw a 39 inch river musky, a 17 pound Mendota catfish, and a 37 inch Monona northern, all caught on a chartreuse/white wacky worm.



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	<p>Articles, photos, 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. Send to: johnson7@tds.net, editor.</p>					<p>Steve Winters Board (608) 524-6348 swinters@jvl.net</p>
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Smallie Weekend in Door County

Cost - \$49 per person Friday, June 1 – Sunday, June 3, 2012

Best Western Maritime Inn – Room Rate: \$59

1001 North 14th Ave.

Sturgeon Bay, WI

920-743-7231

(mention Bill Schultz's Smallie Weekend in Door County)

Schedule

- Seminar – “Door County: World Class Smallies”
7:00 p.m. Friday, June 1 – Best Western Dining Room
- Saturday, June 2 – Fish all day
- Evening meeting to discuss days activities
7:00 p.m. – Best Western Dining Room
- Sunday, June 3 – Fish all day

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Attending _____ x \$49 per person _____

Guest (s) name (s) _____

Payment to: Bill Schultz, 14595 W. Fieldpointe Ct., New Berlin, WI 53151

For questions, please use smalliecentral@gmail.com

Please give us your input for a club trip

ROCK LAKE – LAKE MILLS. Rock Lake is a 1,142 clear water lake in the village of Lake Mills. This lake has a variety of structure including lily pads, reeds, rock bars and one substantial point. Rock has a substantial amount of good sized smallmouth in addition to great largemouth structure, walleye, and northern pike. The landing is on the north side of the

lake and has paved ramps with docks. There is a fee to launch, but it is not substantial. The west side of the lake has extensive weed beds and you will find smallies as well as largemouth off the west side of the lake. The northeast corner of the lake is a huge rock bar, and fishing off this bar is a great spot for smallmouth. A lake map is available on the WDNR website.

DEVILS LAKE - BARABOO. Most of us are familiar with Devils Lake State Park, probably one of the nicest parks in Wisconsin. There are landings on both

Continued on next page

the north and south shore of the lake. This is also a clear water lake but without much structure. There are rock bluffs dropping to deep water on both east and west sides of the lake and fishing off these bluffs usually yields some nice smallmouth. As a bonus, the WDNR annually stocks trout in Devils Lake, and there were some large brood stock trout stocked this year. Access to this state park requires an annual sticker or a daily fee. A lake map is available on the WDNR website.

The other possibilities are several trips of varying lengths on the Wisconsin River, and these possibilities are:

SAUK DAM TO HWY 12 - 2.8 MILES As you can see from the mileage listed, this is a relatively short trip through some rocky structure. This is a short trip and an easy shuttle.

HWY 12 TO BLACKHAWK LANDING - 3.1 Mi.

Again, a relatively short trip, and the shuttle although on opposite sides of the river is short.

BLACKHAWK TO FERRY BLUFF - 2.4 M Mi.

This stretch offers some great fishing, but the shuttle is relatively long due to the access points being on different sides of the river.

HWY 12 TO FERRY BLUFF.- 5.5 Mi. Would be a good choice since there is some varied river structure and the shuttle is relatively short. Fishing around the islands at Ferry Bluff can be terrific.

FERRY BLUFF TO ARENA - 6.0 Mi. Again, this shuttle is a long one.

ARENA TO HWY 14 - 7.8 Mi. Again a nice trip and the landing are on the same side of the river.

HWY 14 TO RIVERSIDE - 3.6 Mi A relatively short trip and an easy shuttle..

PINE ISLAND TO PORTAGE - 5.7 Mi. An easy float and an easy shuttle.

NEWPORT LANDING TO PINE ISLAND - 11 Mi.

Although this is an excellent trip and has good structure, the trip of 11 miles is long, and the shuttle takes approximately one hour. Also remember that there will be an "aluminum hatch" on the river most weekends, so keep this in mind.

Most of us know that this river holds some pretty good smallmouth as well as other species, and one person we all know actually caught an alligator on a fly a number of years ago. All of the trips shown hold substantial numbers of smallmouth.

Noticeably absent from this selection of trips is Lake Mendota which is one of the premier smallmouth lakes in Wisconsin. We ruled this out because of the need for a good sized boat.

What we would like is input from the club members as to which trips in which you might participate. ***Please select three trips in order of preference*** and we will endeavor to accommodate your wishes.

Contact Jerry Pasdo or Andy Davidson (See bottom of page 3.) Also state your preference as to a weekday trip or a weekend trip.



Our Next Meeting:

**Tuesday
September 18th**

**Enjoy your
summer vacation!**

Upcoming Events:

Monday, May 21st 7:00 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

BFF Monthly Meeting

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!**