



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

April 2013

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 6:30-9 PM

8TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AUCTION

**FLIES AND LURES
GUIDED TRIPS
RODS AND REELS
TASTY TREATS
AND MUCH MORE**



**THE MAPLE TREE RESTAURANT IN
McFARLAND. COME EARLIER FOR DINNER!**

Join us at Wisconsin Small-mouth Alliance Ltd.'s 8th annual Fundraiser Auction

by Mike Simon

We'd like to invite everyone to our eighth annual fundraiser that will take place on April 16th at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. Registration will begin at 6:30 and the auction will start at 7:00. You're welcome to come earlier and enjoy dinner before the auction.

Our club owes a big thanks to devoted guides like Roger Lapenter and Kip Vieth, who since our first event have been our biggest supporters. We also will feature two trips by Ron Barefield, and day trips with Black Water Fly Fishing, On-The-Creek Fly Shop, 45 Degrees North Fly Fishing Co. and Kurt's Guide Service. These trips are the highlight of the evening and many of our fishing seasons.

Many of our talented members have hand crafted items for this event. From lures by Dan Johnson to Gini Nichols' place mats, there's something for everyone.

We will also feature a Stihl chainsaw raffle, and a wide array of gift certificates from area restaurants and businesses. Spin and fly fishers should check out

our auction list for names like St. Croix, Shimano, Diawa, Orvis, Sage, Redington, Frabill, Fishpond, Simms, etc. We will again feature flies for multiple species of fish, tied by some of the most talented tiers around. The selection and quality of these flies is outstanding.

The items up for auction can be found both in this newsletter and on our website. The site will be updated with new items as they come in, up to auction time.

As always, this event is open to the public. Obviously donations are important, but even more important is that we have bidders and buyers in the audience. Please consider bringing a guest or two to assure the continued success of this event - our only fundraiser.

If you've attended in the past, you've witnessed the fun that is had by members and guests each year. You can help the club by just showing up.

To date we have contributed over \$18,000 to various programs. The past year's contributions have been to the Kids On Ice and Kids Summer Fishing Day here in Dane Co., Sauk County Youth Conservation Days, and Youth in the Outdoors in NW Wisconsin, benefiting over 1,700 kids.

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Once again, Bob Harrison will be the auctioneer. Bob's descriptions and comments on items are always a highlight and keeps the event lively and the bidding spirited.



The hearings will be held April 8th in each county of the state. The meeting agenda will start with elections of local congress delegates, followed by DNR advisory questions, citizen resolutions, congress advisory questions and a town hall meeting to discuss conservation issues, including a special focus on suggestions for rule simplifications.

Significant questions include:

Allow fishing by the method of trolling on all inland waters with up to three hooks, baits, or lures.

Remove the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season for largemouth bass and allow their harvest under exist-

ing size and bag limits. Smallmouth bass must be immediately released during the early catch and release season.

Prohibit the use of lead tackle that is less than 1-inch in diameter or less than 1-ounce in weight on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes in Vilas County.

The meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. The nearest locations are:

Dane - Sun Prairie High School, Performing Arts Center, 888 Grove St., Sun Prairie

Iowa - Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 Chapel Street, Dodgeville

Columbia - Wayne E. Bartels Middle School, Gymnasium, 2505 New Pinery Rd., Portage
Sauk - UW Baraboo Campus, Lecture Hall A-4, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo

More information including the complete questions and a list of locations can be found at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>

NORTHERN ZONE CATCH & RELEASE SEASON By: Jerry Pasdo

The following is a question on the April Spring Hearings Questionnaire – question 4 on page 15.

Do you favor applying the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season from the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June to Smallmouth Bass only, and only allowing Largemouth Bass to be caught and kept during that time?

Our board solicited an opinion from Mike Vogelsang of the DNR, a frequent resource for us, discussed the subject at a recent Board meeting, and followed up with email discussions. The board decided the following:

- We support the initial thought, that smallmouth bass and largemouth bass should be reviewed and handled as different species.
- Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance promotes catch and release of all bass as our mission. This is especially true when the bass are most vulnerable when they are on their beds. If certain bodies of water have specific needs, they should still be managed for such purposes – whether for walleyes, pike, panfish, or bass.
- By not releasing fish in the early season, the better gene pool is depleted. These are the survivors and spawners. Also, depleting the larger fish for those catchable excursions later in the year will diminish interest in fishing for everyone during the year.

Therefore, we recommend **not** changing the regulations as they currently exist in the Northern zone.

For the full question and an explanation, please visit:

http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/spring_hearing/2013/2013SpringQuestionnaireFinal.pdf

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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.

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We also contributed to The River Alliance and the final installment for stocking of Smallmouth bass in the headwaters of the Apple River in NW Wisconsin.

This year we face even more challenges with the proposed changes to the structure of the bass seasons. We are also working with the DNR on funding a brochure about the construction of half-log structures, to be distributed to the public.

WSA thanks all attendees and bidders for their generosity and support of this event. Without you, it would not be possible. We ask that you patronize the

great guides and businesses that do so much to support our causes.

April 16, 2013 at the Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland. Sign-in at 6:30; auction begins at 7:00 PM.

A reminder: **only cash or checks** are accepted as payment for auction items. An ATM machine is available on site.

Mike Simon, Fundraising Chairman

608-848-3770 or madisonmike@tds.net

2013 Auction Items

Please patronize the generous contributors below!

Payment by cash or check only. An ATM is on site for your convenience.

GUIDED TRIPS & LODGING

Chequamegon Bay: 2 people, 1 day – Angler's All, Roger Lapenter - (min. bid \$250)

Upper Mississippi / St. Croix: 2 people, 1 day – Wildwood Float Trips, Kip Vieth – (min. bid \$250)

Wisconsin River or Madison lakes: (2) half-day trips (can be upgraded to a full day for an additional \$125) – *Ron Barefield* – (min. bid \$150)

St. Croix River: 1 day guided fly fishing only -45 Degrees North Fly Fishing Co., Tom and Kathy Bowers – (min. bid \$250)

Wisconsin River: 1 day guided fly fishing – Blackwater Fly Fishing, Abe Downs and Dan Boggs – (min. bid \$250)

Guided Spin Fishing Trip, half day with upgrade to full day for additional \$100 – *Kurt's Guide Service, Merrill/Wausau, Kurt Schultz* – (min. bid \$150)

1 Day Guided Smallmouth Float Trip or Trout Fishing – *On The Creek Fly Shop, Todd Opsal & Nick Volk* – (min. bid \$250)

Grand Motel in Pembine, WI – (2) one night stay gift certificates – (min. bid \$40)

For more info about these generous guides, please visit the "Links" and "Guide.s" pages of this web site!

OTHER ITEMS

Jimmy Buffett 4 CD set – *Mike Simon*

Muskie Metal Art (45" long) by Baddfish Design – *Mike Phillips*

Leopold Bench – *Andy Davidson*

1 Boga Grip, Model 130 (30#) – *Eastaboga Tackle* – (retail \$124.95, min. bid \$95)

1 Boga Grip, Model 130 (30#) – *Orvis & WSA* – (retail \$124.95, min. bid \$95)

Stihl MS170 Chainsaw Raffle – *Middleton Power Center* – (25 tickets at \$10 each will be sold. If all 25 are NOT sold, the pot will be split, i.e. tickets sold = \$200; half to winner half to WSA)

15 piece Fiskar's Garden Bucket: a complete selection of tools for the gardener – *Fiskar's*, \$185 value

"River Smallmouth Fishing" Book & "Stream Smallmouth Fishing" DVD – *autographed and donated by Tim Holschlag*

St. Croix Rods: Premier Series

6'6" MF 2pc. Baitcaster

7' ML 2pc. Spinning

7' ML 1 pc. Baitcaster – *St. Croix Rods & WSA*

Simms Bass Tracker Caps (asst. colors) – *Simms/Tony Ferrie & WSA*

Shimano Curado CU200G6 Baitcasting Reel – *Dorn Sports & WSA*

Frabill Model 9510 Conservation Series Net – *Frabill & WSA*

2 Diawa Sweepfire Reels – *D&S Sports*
 WF 8wt Rio Smallmouth Line & Fly Box – *Fontana Sports*
 4 Beautiful Hand-crafted Fishing Themed Placements – *Gini Nichols*
 Kodiak Reel Case – *Fishpond*
 Pitchfork Aluminum Clippers – *Fishpond*
 Clearwater 9ft-6wt 4 pc Rod – *Orvis* – \$198 value
 Clearwater II Reel, 4-6 wt – *Orvis* - \$79 value
 Soft-side Nylon Cooler – *Orvis*
Guide Sling Pack – *Orvis & WSA* – (min. bid \$110)
 “Fly Fisher’s Guide to Wisconsin & Iowa” (new edition), by John Motoviloff – *Orvis & WSA*
 Free-standing 18” Glass Birdbath with Wood Duck Theme – *Kathy Simon*
 Pflueger President Reel, model 6930 – *Bass Pro & WSA* – (min. bid \$45)
 White River Wading Staff – *Bass Pro & WSA*
 Mustang M.I.T. Auto Inflatable PFD – *Bass Pro & WSA* – (min. bid \$125)
 Stainless Steel Barbeque Tool, plus \$25 gift certificate for Premier Coop Store – *Premier Coop, Mt. Horeb*
 Original Watercolor – *painted and donated by Peg Ginsberg*; mat and custom frame (your choice of wood species) – *Andy Davidson*
 Walnut Bud Vase – *Andy Davidson*
 Redington Pursuit Outfit – 9 ft. 8 wt. Ready to Fish – *Redington & WSA*
 Redington Surge Reel, 7-8 wt. – *Redington & WSA*
 Rio 8 & 9 wt. Pike Line (new from Rio) – *Rio & WSA*
 Sage Travel Multi-Rod Tube, 33 in. – *Sage & WSA*

HAND CRAFTED LURES/FLIES

1 doz Panfish Flies, 1 doz Bass Poppers, 1 doz Minnow Flies – *Gerry Zingg*
 36 Trout Flies (pupas, dries, midges, grubs, nymphs – size 12-22) – *Andy Davidson*
 2 doz Emergers – *Andy Davidson*
Jo Bucher Spinner Baits and Bucher Tails: 2 groups of 3 each, musky/smallmouth size – *donated by Joe Bucher*
 6 Poppers, 6 Bass Plugs – *Dan Johnson*
 1 doz Sparkle Duns – *Tom Mulford*
 1 Musky Bucktail – *Scot Stewart*
Trout Flies – *Scot Stewart*
Walnut Fly Tying Tool Set:
 Fly Tying Bobbin, Extra Spools, Spool Arbor (for loading thread) – *Gerry Zingg*
 1 Magnet Set (for picking up dropped hooks), 1 Bobbin Threader, 1 Dubbing Needle, 2 Dubbing Teasers – *Andy Davidson*

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Tight Lines Fly Shop – \$150 (for use on in-store or phone order merchandise; NOT redeemable on guided trips or Internet sales)
Original House of Pancakes – (5) \$20 gift certificates
Marigold Kitchen – \$20 gift certificate
The Egg and I – (2) \$10 gift certificates
 The Shoebox, Black Earth – \$50 gift certificate
Farm and Fleet – \$50 gift certificate
 Food Fight Restaurant Group
 Viking Hardware, Mt. Horeb & New Glarus
 \$20 gift certificate

BAKED GOODS / OTHER TREATS

2 Jars of Hot Fudge Mix – *Marie Wilhelm Davidson*
 1 German Chocolate Cake – *Marie Wilhelm Davidson*
 Pints of maple syrup
 Baked goods - *Kathy Simon*

New bass season proposed by state legislators

In May of 2011 the Wisconsin Legislature passed Act 21, which gave the Governor nearly absolute, and unprecedented power over administrative rules.

Commenting, at the time, on Act 21's possible effect on the DNR, Paul Smith, Outdoors Editor of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* wrote, "Act 21 could prompt even more politicians to attempt to change DNR rules and regulations through legislation at the Capitol, further eroding the influence of the (Wisconsin Conservation Congress) and the Natural Resources Board."

In February 2013, the three senior republicans on the Assembly Natural Resources Committee co-sponsored Assembly bill 6. Alvin Ott chairs the committee, Joel Kleefisch is vice-chair. The third sponsor is Garey Bies.

Ab 6 would require the **"DNR to establish a catch-and-release only season for bass fishing in the areas of the state where there is not a continuous open season for bass fishing. The bill requires the catch-and-release only season to begin on the first Saturday in March and to end on the Sunday preceding the first Saturday in May."**

There are concerns among some of our members that there could be negative effects on our small-mouth bass fisheries. In some areas of the state, spawning season would fall within this period.

The proposal does not exclude the use of live bait, and this is especially troubling. Increased mortality of released fish could be expected to rise.

Most of us have supported the concept that different waters require different management approaches based on the science. And that not all anglers want the same experience. We have supported special regulations that restrict the harvest in certain waters that can produce trophy sized fish. Ab 6 would change the regulations on all state waters.

Currently, the early trout season does not allow live bait, and some waters are still closed. Both are sound practices.

There are already plenty of opportunities currently available in waters that are open year-round for bass, such as the Wisconsin River and several other rivers and lakes.

Many of us fish for other species as well. Musky in particular, but also pike and walleyes, could easily be illegally targeted using conventional bass tackle and techniques during the early bass season. Muskies in April will readily take smaller lures, and someone using lighter tackle without heavy leaders (so as not to get arrested) will have more break-offs and bite-offs that could leave a potentially fatal lure in a musky's mouth. This would be nearly impossible to prevent by enforcement.

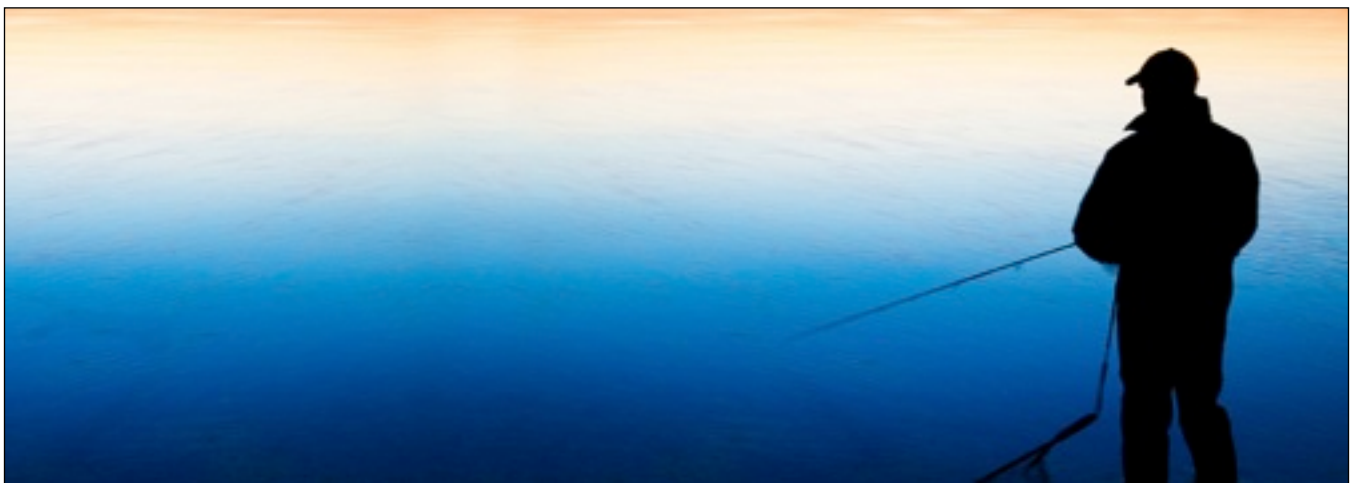
Ab 6 has been read, and sent to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee where it awaits further action.

You can keep track of it here:

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/proposals/ab6>

Should you wish to contact someone about this issue, you will find your representative, as well as the members of the Assembly Natural Resources committee here:

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/Pages/asmhome.aspx>



Our Next Meeting:

**Tuesday
April 16th**

8th Annual Fundraising Auction

Upcoming Events:

The Fly Fishers, Milwaukee 25th Anniversary Open House

Saturday, April 13th 9 p.m.-4 p.m. They are working on adding even more features than last year's event to celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

This year, Matt Panosh of Raleigh, NC will be the featured fly tying guest. Matt ties beautiful flies for a variety of species and is a very creative tier.

They will have more reps on hand this year, more in-store specials, Andy Renzetti from Renzetti Fly Tying Vises will be there and live blues music with bluesman Keith Scott of New Buffalo, MI. Once again there will be brats from Ray's Butcher Shop along with beverages.

Kip Vieth at Orvis

Kip will be at the Orvis store as part of Spring Orvis Days.

3:00PM to 4:30PM

"The Upper Mississippi River: A warm water fly anglers river of dreams."

This will be an overview of the Upper Mississippi and why it is the finest warm water river fishery in the world.

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

SWTU is offering a free fly casting clinic on Saturday, April 13, at Salmo Pond.

The clinic is available to anyone interested in learning how to cast a fly. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend.

Loaner rods will be available for those who do not own their own equipment.

The clinic will begin at 9 a.m.

Monday, April 22nd 7:00 p.m.

Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

BFF Monthly Meeting

Wader Repair Clinic featuring Tony Ferrie from Simms
Bring your Goretex waders

Monday, May 20th 7:00 p.m.

Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

BFF Monthly Meeting - 3rd Monday!

Tim Landwehr - "Peacock Bass in the Amazon"

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!**