



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

January 2014

**WE CAN'T GET
FAR ON EMPTY**



**REMEMBER TO
PAY YOUR DUES!**

Board elections for 2014

At our upcoming January meeting we will hold elections for the Board. Five of the six members are interested in returning to serve another year. They are Mike Simon, Andy Davidson, John Pritchard, Jerry Pasdo and Gerry Zingg. At least one more Board Member would be desirable.

The time commitment is minimal with our Board Meetings lasting only 45 minutes and held prior to our monthly meetings. In addition, we have 3-4 breakfast meetings usually involving our largest fundraiser – the Auction. We normally do not meet during our fishing season.

In addition to discussing business at the meetings, there is a lot of “B.S.” about our fishing exploits and plans for more adventures. Please consider joining this fun group.

One of our departing members for 2013 is Steve Winters who has served on the Board for years and has been President. He will remain an active, contributing member. Thanks for all your help, Steve!

Come fishing with us next summer

The club's officers are already tossing around ideas for club trips for next season. Some of the places being considered are the tributaries of the

lower Wolf River, the Wisconsin River in Central Wisconsin, and Rivers in the Upper Peninsula

If you have any additional ideas, let us know. And plan to join us. After all, did you really get out this year as much as you would have liked? Joining one of our trips makes it easy!

It's Time To Renew Your Membership!

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. We rely on membership dues and our bucket raffles to fund our speakers and our newsletter. Now is the time to renew for the coming year! Please support the Smallmouth Alliance. You can renew at the next meeting, or use the form enclosed in this newsletter. Be sure to include your email address. Thank you for your continued support!

YES, I WANT TO RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!

Individual \$20 Family \$25

Name _____ Phone _____
Street _____ email _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to: WSA

Mail to: Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance, Ltd.
2701 Gust Road
Verona, WI 53593

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Ltd.

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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.

Steve Winters
Board
(608) 524-6348
swinters@jvl.net

Fishing Pressure and the Tract

Other sportsmen always wonder about C/R rules and how relative they are to our, "Free the Fighter" motto. The following article from a recent In-Fisherman magazine shows that even a one fish limit can put a dent into a fisherie's future. If the fishery population becomes stunted, perhaps that's a time to act. Prior to that, C/R may need to be practiced on even more species. Jerry Pasdo

How much pressure is required to dramatically alter angling results? A study by Michael D. Clady, DeWayne E. Campbell, and Gerald P. Cooper, called "Effects of Trophy Angling on Unexploited Populations of Smallmouth Bass", attempted in part to answer that question.

From 1900 until 1966, the famous Sylvania Tract in Michigan's Upper Peninsula was in private hands. The federal government purchased the tract in 1966, taking over management of the 36 lakes within its boundaries. The lakes were opened to fishing in 1967,

most of them subject to special regulations calling for artificial lures only and allowing harvest of only one 18-inch or larger trophy per angler.

The study focused on four of these lakes, each described as having "unexploited" populations of smallmouth bass in 1966. Surveys backed this up, revealing "significant populations of large predatory fish". Ongoing population surveys were taken with nets over the following years. In Loon Lake, the proportion of trophy bass (over 18 inches) taken in survey nets declined by more than 50 percent from autumn 1966 to autumn 1967, according to the study.

Over the next three years, the percentage of trophy bass sampled continued to decline, from 12.7 percent of the catch in 1966 to 2.4 percent in 1970. In 1966, 39 percent of all smallmouths sampled in Loon Lake were aged at 8 years or older. By 1973, that figure had dropped to 6.3 percent.

Remember, these lakes are "protected" with special regulations that also deny anglers the use of outboard motors. Sylvania Tract lakes are comparatively hard to access. In most cases, anglers must hike, portage, canoes, and camp. Yet, "an examination of all possible explanations for the decline strongly suggests that angler harvest was the cause."



Spring 2014

FLY FISHING OPENER



Special Thanks: Dave Whittick, Illustration

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2014



SPONSORED BY THE BADGER FLY FISHERS,
MADISON, WI • www.badgerflyfishers.org
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. plus evening banquet



ATTRACTIONS

- Commercial exhibits of the latest and finest in fly fishing equipment
- Raffles, and lively auction
- Fly tying demonstrations

Radison Hotel

577 Grand Canyon Drive
Madison, WI

Come join us for a day of fly fishing, fly tying demonstrations, education and conservation.

FEATURED SPEAKER

Davy Wotton fisherman, guide and tyer in the White River area of the Ozarks

- *Fishing traditional style wet flies*
- *The White River system in Arkansas*
- *The history of UK flyfishing today compared to the USA*

Our Next Meeting:

**Tuesday
January 21st**

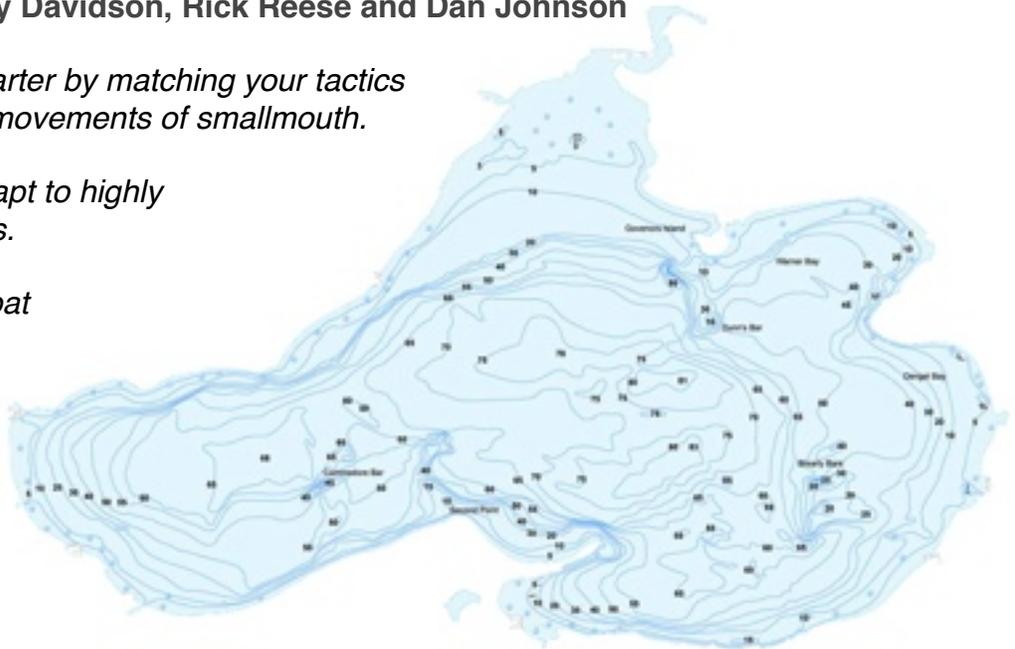
Lures and Locations Through the Season

Club members Andy Davidson, Rick Reese and Dan Johnson

Learn to fish smarter by matching your tactics to the seasonal movements of smallmouth.

Learn how to adapt to highly pressured waters.

Learn why wombat droppings are cube-shaped.



Upcoming Meetings:

Jan 21st WSA - Andy Davidson, Rick Reese, and Dan Johnson - Lures and locations through the season.

Jan 27th BFF - Troy Abplanalp – Fishing Alaska From a Bush Pilot's view

Feb 18th WSA - Ron Barefield

March 18th WSA - Mike Jacobs

April 15th WSA Annual Fundraiser 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!**