



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

March 2014

We put the fun in Fundraiser

Mark April 15th on your calendar, as that's the date of our ninth annual fundraiser at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. The fun begins at 7 PM, but come early for dinner, register, and look at the selection of items up for bid.

This year we'll be featuring trips to some of the best destinations in the Midwest for smallmouth bass. From the Mississippi to the Menomonee, Lake Mendota to Lake Superior, we've got it covered. Please take time to go to the website to look at those trips. While you're there, check out the links to these guides and consider booking a trip for the upcoming season. You won't regret it.

We will also have rods, reels, bags, packs, flies, lures, and assorted gear for both the spin and fly angler. With names like St. Croix, Simms, Sage, Redington, Fishpond, Boga, Orvis, Shimano, and Bass Pro, we're able to cater to a broad spectrum of discriminating anglers.

To appeal to an even wider range of attendees, we have art work in several mediums, gardening supplies by Fiskars, the very popular Stihl chainsaw raffle, gift certificates, and goodies to satisfy your sweet tooth. Still looking for more? You can keep up with the growing list of auction items on our website. Please take the time to check it regularly. We will also have a list in the April newsletter.

You may not be aware that over the past several years we've lost two of our guide members to drowning: Adam LaPorte, who was one of our early club presidents, and this past summer we lost Dennis Todd, a guide out of Gunflint lodge in the BWCA.

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This year, in cooperation with Simms and Dry Fly Sales, we're going to feature a Simms Contender Inflatable Life Vest, to be auctioned off in their memory, possibly starting an annual feature in our fundraiser.

I'm sure you are aware that we have this single event to fund the coming year's projects. Participation at any level is helpful. The single biggest thing our members can do is to attend the event and bring a friend or two. As many of you have experienced in the past, a roomful of people to enjoy the camaraderie and bid on the variety of items, sure adds to the enjoyment of the evening. If you have an items you'd like to contribute, please contact me or any of the board members listed in this newsletter.

Distant members will once again have the opportunity to bid. If you are one of these members and see a trip or item of interest, contact me or another board member to place a bid for you.

As always, we remind everyone that all of this is made possible by our very generous donors in support of our club and its cause. These include generous guides who donate trips, business partners who donate fantastic merchandise, and our numerous members who contribute a variety of items. Please show your appreciation by patronizing them.

As a reminder, only cash or checks are accepted. Like the past two years, the goal is to have the event wrapped up by 9 PM. Final details will be in the April newsletter and on our website. We look forward to seeing you there! --Mike Simon, Chairman

Where's the money going?

With our ninth annual fundraiser coming in April, we want to keep members and donors informed of how the money is appropriated. To date, \$22,000 has been used to fund numerous projects. Last year's projects were:

Kids on Ice and Kids Summer Fishing Day in Dane Co.

Youth Conservation Days in Sauk Co. (this affects 1,400+ kids in Southern Wisconsin)

1,500 Half-Log brochures were printed in conjunction with the DNR, for distribution to educate groups on habitat improvement.

The River Alliance of Wisconsin and Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, defenders of our waterways.

We have partnered with the DNR to provide transmitters for research on the lower Menomonee River

Our bucket raffles have enabled us to provide excellent speakers for the enjoyment of members and guests, and your membership helps to fund this newsletter. As you can see, we couldn't do this without the loyal support of our members and friends of our club.

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Ltd.

2701 Gust Road
Verona, WI 53593
(608) 843-3770

<http://wisconsin-smallmouth.com/wordpress/>

Jerry Pasdo
President
(608) 233-2774
japasdo@gmail.com

John Pritchard
Vice President
(608) 877-0344
john_pritchard@sbcglobal.net

Mike & Kathy Simon
Treas./Membership
(608) 848-3770
madisonmike@tds.net

Andy Davidson
Secretary
(608) 338-2639
buroakakd@gmail.com

Gerry Zingger
Board
(608) 233-7348
zingger@charter.net

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.

Dan Johnson
Board
(608) 233-6518
johnson7@tds.net

Trips planned

The WSA Board has decided on our club trips for 2014.

Our first trip, on June 20th-22nd will be to Shawano and Waupaca Counties to fish the Little Wolf, the Embarrass River, and the Red River. Since these streams are not as large as was the Flambeau River last year, we will decide what waters we will fish depending on the amount of club members attending

Our second trip will be on August 30th - September 1st (Labor Day Weekend) to the Wisconsin River. Depending on water levels, we will either be on the stretch from Merrill to Brokaw, or the river just west of Eagle River. In addition to the river, there are numerous smallmouth lakes in the area. Some of these lakes have been relatively inaccessible to larger boats in recent years due to low water, and these can have excellent smallmouth fishing. Both sections of the Wisconsin River have numerous smallmouth, walleye, and musky.

The river miles on these floates are as follows:

Wisconsin River: Merrill to Pine River Landing - 3.92 miles, Pine River to Brokaw - 9.7 miles.

Wisconsin River West of Eagle River: Cleveland Drive to canoe landing - 3.7 miles

Little Wolf: Big Falls to Little Falls - 1.5 miles, Little Falls to Ketchum Road - 2.85 miles, Ketchum Road to Hwy 110 - 3.97 miles, Hwy 110 to Symco - 7.48 miles, Symco to Waupaca County Park - 4.89 miles, Manawa to Royalton - 8.8 miles.

Embarass: Caroline to Pella - 7.44 miles (1.5 on Pella Pond), Pella to Rangeline Road - 6.24 miles, Rangeline Rd. to Hwy 22 - 5.28 miles, Hwy 22 to Embarrass - 4.18 miles.

Red River: Gilmer Falls Park to Maple Rd. - 6 miles (best float), Maple Rd. to Wolf River - 4.5 miles.

There are several lodging possibilities in Shawano.

If you want to join us contact Andy Davidson:

buroakakd@gmail.com or (608) 338-2639.

What Do Walleye and Smallmouth Bass Eat in the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage?

from the Wisconsin DNR

In 2012, the Mercer DNR Fisheries Management Team (in cooperation with volunteers) evaluated dietary habits between walleye and smallmouth bass within the Flowage.

Stomach contents from 133 walleye and 113 smallmouth bass were collected between June and October. For walleye, results of this study showed that fish (majority of which were young-of-the-year yellow perch) comprised the overwhelming majority of prey found in stomach contents (Table 1).

Other dietary studies of walleye have also documented a strong association (predator-prey relationship) between walleye and yellow perch. These two species overlap considerably in both their behavioral and habitat preferences which likely explains the relationship that has evolved.

For smallmouth bass, results showed that crayfish made up the vast majority of prey found in stomach contents. These results also align with other studies examining dietary habits of smallmouth bass;

when crayfish are available, smallmouth bass seem to exhibit a preference for preying upon them. In general, crayfish are most commonly found in rocky and wooded habitats; similar habitat features that smallmouth bass typically select for.

An additional objective of the study was to look for evidence of smallmouth bass predation on walleye. Undoubtedly, a smallmouth bass may occasionally eat a young walleye. However, the only young walleye that was found in this study came from the stomach of an adult walleye. Walleye are known to be cannibalistic and are actually suspected to limit their own recruitment in high-density situations.

A look at the “% Fish” category in the [tables above](#) exemplifies why walleye predation, and not smallmouth bass predation, likely has a greater impact on walleye recruitment in the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (walleye eat much greater proportions of fish than smallmouth bass do).

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The Spin on Wide Spools

By: Jerry Pasdo

During the past few years the use of a wide based, low profile, spool for a spinning reel replacing the conventional spool has been a topic of conversation. The spinning reel spool has not changed much since its introduction with the Mitchell 300's and its predecessors. The options were ultra-lite spools, high capacity spools, and standard spools. Why, and now, use a wide spool?

Advantages are many. First of all, the wide spool spinning reel recovers more line with each turn of the handle than the traditional spool. That also means there is slightly less line twist created with line of an equivalent size. Secondly, the wide spool reels enabled you to do longer casts because each line wrap coming off the spool during your cast is slightly longer. This results in reduced friction on your outgoing line.

Thirdly, the use of lighter weight lures, jig heads, grubs, etc. can be utilized because there is less line drag. There is absolutely no noticeable difference on line retrieves with your lure. Some say a wide spool reel can cast roughly 20% further with equivalent



lures and rods. Naturally a faster tip rod will give more whip and even accelerate the lure further.

With all of those above reasons, the wide spool spinning reel is one of the most important trends that is coming out in spinning tackle. Various reel companies will be carrying these soon, but the most known are through U.S. Reel, Pflueger (#7430) and Bass pro Shop (#1845569). This author is not familiar with other brands handled by the national sporting goods chains.

One last thought, you will notice even further casts using the braided lines and either uni knots or seaguar knots to attach your leader. A spool with braid and an 8' mono leader and a spool with 8' of fluorocarbon leader and you're ready for various fishing options. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, there haven't been too many revolutionary ideas in spinning reels and weight. However, this wide spool is a great addition at no additional cost in purchasing the reel.

For Sale – 1996 Old Town Square Stern Canoe & trailer



Canoe is 17 ft. long, and is set up with two sets of oar locks so you can row from the center or back seat. Canoe comes with a custom made cover, a set of oars & oar locks, molded, removable seats, a very nice anchor system, and a 1998 shorelander trailer with bearing buddies installed, spare tire and rim & a custom made removeable steel rack that allows easy transport of two additional canoes. Asking \$1500.00. Contact Steve Winters at 608-524-6348 or e-mail swinters@rucls.net

River Boat For Sale The custom built boat is 17 ft. 3 " long. It is 3 ft. wide on the floor and 50 inches wide at the center oar locks, raked at both ends & will handle up to a 6 hp. motor. It has two sets of oar locks so it can be rowed either from the middle or from the rear seat. It has a four ft. front deck with removeable carpet, as well as cherry seats with seat holders built in. The gunnels of the boat are also cherry, while the main body of the boat is 3/8" plywood with a 1/2" plywood bottom covered with fiberglass. It has holders for anchor hangers in both the front and rear of the boat. The boat weighs 300 pounds and comes with a shorelander trailer equipped with bearing buddies and a mounted spare tire & rim and led lights. The boat and trailer are both 2005 models and have been kept under a roof for their duration when not in use and have been well maintained. The boat was built by Jim Hauer of Green Bay, and the trailer is a Shorelander. The owner just bought a new drift boat and is simply out of room.

Asking \$1500.00. For more information, call Steve Winters at 608-524-6348 (afternoons or evenings please) or swinters@rucls.net



Our Next Meeting:

**Tuesday
March 18th**

Searching for Gold at the Top of the World

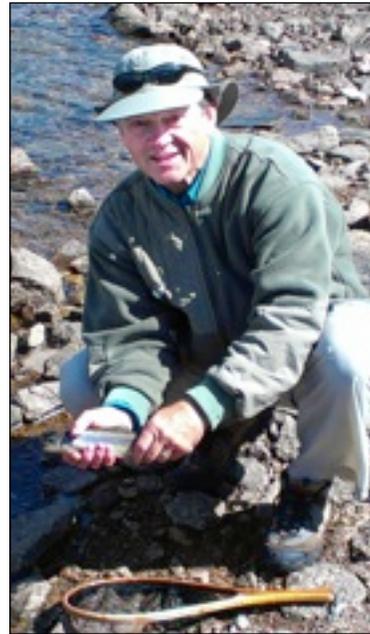
Mike Jacobs



Mike Jacobs is a fly fishing addict and will fly fish in freshwater for anything that has fins and breathes through its gills. His primary passion is smallmouth bass in the streams and rivers of Iowa, but every September he takes a trip out west in search of fish species he can add to his lifetime bucket list.

Mike's program, highlights some of the lakes and streams near the Beartooth Highway. On this trip Mike's primary focus was on catching the beautiful Golden Trout.

The drive along the Beartooth Highway and over Beartooth Pass was once described by Charles Kuralt as the most scenic drive in America. Come join us as Mike shows us some of the fishing, accommodations, and scenery that can be enjoyed at the Top of the World.



Upcoming Meetings:

March 18th WSA - Mike Jacobs

April 28th BFF - Jim Bartelt on Trout Fishing in SW Wisconsin

March 24th BFF- David Rowe will discuss the New Zealand mud snail

May 19th BFF - Steve Born, Hex Fishing

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!**