



# THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

*Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing*

March 2015



## Join us at our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fundraising Auction

by Mike Simon, Auction Chair

Mark April 21st on your calendar, that's the date of our tenth annual fundraiser at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. Registration is at 6:30 and the auction starts promptly at 7:00 p.m., but come early to have dinner.

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 our [website](#) to look at those trips. While you're there, check out the links to the guides and consider booking a trip for the upcoming season.

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 blower raffle, gift certificates, and goodies to satisfy your sweet tooth.

We are working to secure life vests again this year, in memory of Ad a.m. LaPorte and Dennis Todd who drowned in years past. 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.

This single event funds the entire 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 any items that you'd like to contribute or have us secure to bid on, please contact [me](#).

Distant members will once again have the

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*Please note that this month's  
meeting is on a Monday!  
See page 5*

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.

## Where does the money go?

With our tenth annual fundraiser coming in April, we want to keep members and donors informed of how the money is used. To date, \$23,735 has been donated to numerous projects. Last year's 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)
- Youth in the Outdoors in NW Wisconsin, benefiting over 200 kids
- Nesting cover 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 and the Cooperative Fisheries Research unit at UW Stevens Point 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.

As a final note, we will be setting the room up a little more auction-friendly and also will use a projector to show the flies and small items, as opposed to passing them around. Our goal will be to shorten the event and get everyone out by 9:00 p.m.

As a reminder, only cash or checks are accepted. Final details will be in the April newsletter and on our [website](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

## Jan – December 2014 Financial Report

Beginning Balance 1/1/2014: \$ 13,185.77

### Income

Contributions & sales	2.00
Membership dues	1,205.00
Net bucket raffles	241.51
Net auction income	<u>5,239.45</u>
Total Income	\$ 6,687.96

### Expense

Administrative Exp.	41.08
Reimbursable Exp.	132.39
Storage Unit	557.72
Signs and Forms	177.70
Donations	2,798.22
Newsletter	250.00
Web site fees	387.34
Speaker's fees	<u>1,073.34</u>
Total Expense	\$ 5,417.79

Ending Balance 12/31/14 \$ 14,455.94

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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](mailto:johnson7@tds.net), editor.

# Get your kicks on route 66

by Andy Davidson

It started just after Christmas. You know how it is. You haven't been fishing for a few months now, and the arm is starting to twitch. I started by looking at the website of Chartered Waters which is a guide service on Lake Taneycomo. This is the part of the White River system in Missouri below Table Rock Dam and above Bull Shoals. The upper couple of miles is still river.

The photos of the large rainbow trout got me thinking about a trip in February. My first calls were to Ray Mirande and Dan Johnson two of my usual fishing companions. Ray was going to be in Colorado snowboarding for a month, so he was out. Dan was not terribly interested because of a broken wrist, but I asked him to look at the website. He called me back the next day and said that he could go sometime after February seventh. He had become interested after seeing the photos of the big rainbows too.

My next call was to Lorrie Bindi, my college roommate who lives in Manhattan, Illinois. Lorrie drives school bus, so he put in for time off and was ready to go. After looking at different internet sites, Dan and I started tying flies. Small scuds and midges and a couple local patterns.

Finally the departure day arrived. Dan picked me up, loaded gear and we headed for Manhattan, to get Lorrie. We arrived at his house around 5 p.m. and his wife Cheri made a wonderful dinner for us. Early to bed Sunday night and Monday we loaded Dan's car and headed for Branson, Missouri.

From Lorrie's to Branson is 513 miles, so we settled in for the long ride along what used to be Route 66. Luckily the trip was uneventful. Coming toward St. Louis, it was time for gas and lunch. We were fortunate that we found a White Castle for lunch (Lorrie takes his wife to White Castle for her birthday because he gets a senior discount there).

A few more hours on the road and we stopped at the Bass Pro Shop in Springfield, Missouri which is a

real treat for anyone. Another hour and we arrived at Trout Hollow Lodge on Lake Taneycomo.

Tuesday morning came and the water was running on Table Rock Dam. Luckily there is a phone number to call to get the generating schedule, so we called and found that the water would shut off at 9 a.m.. Like most trout hunters on Lake Taneycomo we headed for the Shepard of the Hills Fish Hatchery which provides good access for wading the river. After our gear was donned, we headed from the parking lot to the river.

There are two chutes coming out of the hatchery and as usual, there were four fishermen on either side of them casting in unison so as not to tangle lines. The trout are concentrated near these chutes, but to me it seemed like a sad way to fish.

With the water off, the flow was minimal and wading was easy on the uniform, gravel bottom. Dan and Lorrie both waded far out into the river but I stayed near shore since there were some fish rising to midges in the slow water along the shoreline. Lorrie was the first to catch a trout followed by Dan, and

finally I took one on a midge emerger. We all caught fish intermittently throughout the morning and all were on small flies.

At 1 p.m. we headed back to the lodge and had lunch. After lunch we decided to try the shore opposite the hatchery. As we arrived at the small lot on the south side of the river we saw that we were the only car. We headed down the steep path and arrived at "the rebar hole" so named because of some reinforcing bars in the river bed from an old bridge.

There were fish rising to midges in the slow water, but Lorrie and I headed to where the water was constricted and had a faster current. We caught several fish but we watched two fly fishers on the north side of the run doing really well.

We ended the day around 5 p.m. and found Danna's Barbecue and Burger for supper that night. Great food, by the way: ribs, home-smoked sausage and pulled pork.



*Taneycomo guide, Brett Rader bringing in a small rainbow for Lorrie Bindi*

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The next morning, Brett Rader from Chartered Waters picked up Lorrie and me in his boat and he rigged our rods with strike indicators, small jigs and some size 18 scuds. Lorrie and I both caught lots of fish that morning on a variety of flies and locations.

After a quick lunch, we headed to the hatchery for some wade fishing. Brett had Lorrie and I fishing the same type of rig and we started catching trout right away. We found Dan already in the rebar run casting to rising fish. About 4 p.m. Lorrie was fishing above me when he hooked a good one. Brett asked me to move to give him room to play it. As I moved out of the way, I looked in the water and saw possibly the largest stream rainbow that I had ever seen, not the one Lorrie had on, but a giant of about 28 inches.

Lorrie did have a pretty good one on his rod too. He fought valiantly for about two minutes until finally breaking the 6x tippet. Our guide put it at 21 inches.

We quit a short while after that. Lorrie had had his best day trout fishing ever. That night he related, numerous times, his fight with the big rainbow. Thursday

turned too cold for good fishing, so we decided to head home.

We arrived at Lorrie's house just in time to watch the second half of the Illinois vs Michigan basketball game. Lorrie and I were roommates at University of Illinois. With about two minutes left and down by seven points, the Illini stormed to a seven to zero run, tied the game and in overtime, Illinois won by scoring seventeen unanswered points.

Friday we headed back to Mount Horeb so that we could attend the BFF Opener on Saturday. As usual, a great event. Lorrie comes up every year for the Opener. While there, I received a phone call that I now had two tickets for the Wisconsin vs Illinois basketball game on Sunday. I am always torn at these games as to who to cheer for, but being a Badgers fan, I did cheer for the them and they won by nineteen points.

A great ending to a trout fishing trip. I strongly recommend [Chartered Waters](#) and Brett Rader as a guide and [Trout Hollow Lodge](#) as a place to stay.



Above are two of the wonderful deer hair sculptures tied by Mike George. And no, he does not use any marking pens. Visit Ward Bean's [Warm Water Fly Tyer](#) website to read about Mike.

You'll scroll down about a third of the page to find it. And be sure to click on the link below the story to see more of his original creations.

# Our Next Meeting:

**Monday  
March 16<sup>th</sup>**

## "Smallmouth in the Iowa Driftless Area"

by Mike Jacobs

Mike Jacobs is an avid fly tier and fly fisher from Monticello, Iowa. He enjoys fly fishing for any freshwater fish but his real passion is fly fishing for smallmouth bass in small streams and rivers of the driftless area in Iowa.

Mike is a published author with articles appearing in *Midwest Fly Fishing*, the *Fly Fisher*, and *Fly Tye* magazines. In this program, Mike will take you to some of his favorite Iowa streams, discuss fishing techniques and favorite smallie flies.



# Upcoming Meetings:

**March 16<sup>th</sup>**

WSA - Mike Jacobs  
**Note, this is a Monday!**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**

WSA - 10th Annual  
Fundraising Auction

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

BFF - Tim Landwehr  
"Golden Dorado of Bolivia"

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!**