



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing



February 2016

Badger Fly Fishers to host annual Spring Opener

The Opener will be held Saturday, February 13, 2016 at the American Family Insurance Training Center, Building "A", 6000 American Parkway, Madison. The doors open at 8:00 A.M. Directions are available on the [BFF website](#).

Featured speaker, Gary Borger is one of the world's foremost fly fishing educators. Gary has written ten best-selling books on fly fishing.

American Family Insurance graciously makes their facilities available to local nonprofits. However, no smoking or alcohol is allowed anywhere on the grounds. And you may not park in the ramp. Please use the surface lot just south of the ramp.

Once again there will be a lively auction taking place after lunch, and a number of fine items will be available for bidders. Throughout the day they will have their regular, great assortment of master fly tiers and vendors. Tiers will be demonstrating traditional and innovative patterns including bass bugs, dry flies, nymphs, salmon and steelhead flies.

Then at 4:30 p.m. drawing will begin for the winners of the bucket raffles. The day will conclude after an evening banquet where the Joan and Lee Wulff conservation award is presented.

Everyone is invited to stay and have dinner, please let [Bill Engber](#) - (608) 238-4373 - know if you want to reserve a banquet spot.

You will find more information on their website: [badgerflyfishers.com](#)

Go and join the fun!

Mark your calendar now

Our own Annual Fundraiser Auction will be held on Tuesday April 19, 2015, 6:30 pm at The Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

Come earlier for dinner.

We will have fishing trips with top rated guides, new rods and reels, a variety of baits and tackle, flies and lures, gently used fishing and outdoor equipment, baked goods, hand-made gift items, restaurant certificates, tasty treats and much more.

100% of the proceeds are donated to youth fishing, outdoor education and recreation programs, re-stocking and conservation projects.

For more information, contact Mike Simon (608) 334-4448 or madisonmike@tds.net

Correction: Last month's newsletter misidentified the mining company which owns the Back Forty Project on The Menominee River as Aquila Resources Ltd. which is incorporated in Australia with 85% Chinese ownership.

The actual company is [Aquila Resources Inc.](#) which is incorporated in Canada and has a number of stockholders.



On Wednesday March 2nd, 2016 The Fly Fishers Fly Shop will be hosting the 2016 International Fly Fishing Film Festival again. Last years's event was a blast and a big success and a record year in raising funds for Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and this year they are also adding the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance to the fund raising effort.

The event is at the Sprecher Brewery, 701 W Glendale Ave, in Milwaukee. Everyone who attends will get a great gift bag. They will have tons of free door prizes again.

There'll be pizza from Palermo's, Johnsonville brats, Sprecher beer, soda and raffles with all sales benefiting SEWTU and the WSA. WSA will assist Pat and the staff of the Fly Fishers, along with SEWTU, in preparation, set-up, and take-down of this event.

Last year was sold out and a number of people couldn't get tickets because they waited too long. Don't wait and miss out. Stop in at The Fly Fishers for tickets, call them at 414-259-8100, or visit www.theflyfishers.com to buy them online, price is \$18.00.

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m. - Show Starts at 7:00 p.m. Mike Simon from WSA will have a limited amount of tickets for sale, contact Mike at 608-334-4448.

All of us at WSA would like to thank Pat for including us in this event. We look forward to participating.

Fish Farm Frenzy

By: Jerry Pasdo

Avid fishermen should be aware of an issue that would negatively affect our pristine waters. Currently, Assembly Bill 640 and Senate Bill 493 are attempting to legislate expansion of fish farming and aquaculture by methods that would degrade our streams and lakes. Fish farms would be permitted to not only operate in our natural water, spring fed streams, ponds, etc. they could also be permitted to dredge our wetlands. All this would negatively affect our upstream habitat so crucial for the survival of the food sources for all our fisheries.

Sure the Bills would possibly create more jobs, but at what cost? Irreparable harm can be caused by stream siltation and by the very possible release of considerable fish waste caused by the immense concentration of prolifically fed fish.

We've seen the damage already caused by major rain events or human error in disposition of animal waste from large animal farms. Besides thousands of gallons of fish waste, what other chemicals would flow downstream affecting stream and lake? The risk of damage is so great, with such little benefit, that these Bills should be investigated carefully. Nature took thousands of years to create our waters and wildlife habitat and the loss of this critical habitat could occur in a few days. Please check out these Bills and contact your representative with your thoughts and concerns.

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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.

Our Next Meeting:

February 16th

Abe Downs and Dan Boggs - Blackwater Fly Fishing

“Fishing Strategies for Northern Wisconsin Rivers and Feeder Streams”

Abe has been fishing his entire life and fly fishing for over twenty years in central Wisconsin. He has traveled extensively from coast to coast searching for his quarry with a fly rod. Abe started fly fishing for trout as most fly fishermen do but quickly realized trout isn't the only game in town. Turning his attention to warm water species he soon found himself fishing for bass and musky. His new passion quickly grew, searching out new waters looking for that next bite.

Dan is a tried and proven fly fishing guide. Having guided for the last 10 years primarily around the driftless area for trout he has developed a passion for showing people how to catch fish on the fly rod here in his home state of Wisconsin. Musky and Smallmouth hold a very special place in his pursuit as they are explosive and exciting to go after, getting your blood going every time. Having fished from one end of the country to the other Dan likes to catch anything that will take a fly.



Upcoming Events:

February 16th WSA monthly meeting
Abe Downs and
Dan Boggs Blackwater Fly Fishing
“Fishing Strategies for Northern Wisconsin
Rivers and Feeder Streams”

March 15th WSA monthly meeting
Kip Vieth of Wildwood Float Trips

April 19th WSA monthly meeting
Annual Fundraising
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!**