



# Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Ltd.

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

January 2017

## WSA Monthly Meetings

**January 17** – Speaker: Bill Schultz. Finding and Catching Small River Smallies. His successful techniques will work equally well in our Wisconsin lakes and rivers.

**February 21** – Bradd Sims, WDNR Fisheries Manager  
Topic - 2016 survey results and current conditions of small-mouth bass streams for southern Grant and Lafayette Co.

**March 21** – Speaker: Tim Landwehr, Tight Lines Flyfishing Co., De Pere, Wis.  
Smallmouth bass in NE Wisconsin.

### Club Information

wisconsin-smallmouth.com  
Mike Simon, 608-334-4448  
madisonmike@tds.com  
President - Jerry Pasdo  
608-345-2198  
japasdo@gmail.com  
Editor - John Cantwell,  
jhcantwell@yahoo.com

See additional announcements on pages 3 and 4.

## TRIPS, TRIPS, OUTINGS

By Jerry Pasdo

Twelve inches of snow, ice on the pond, and holiday treats devoured. Now it's time to think of Smallmouth fishing. Whatever you call them, they are great fun, with good friends. Many options are possible in the Smallmouth infested lakes and streams in our state. Our trips usually involve 3 to 4 days (2 to 3 nights), whatever is preferable. Some members stay for less time. Also, we have one day options closer to home.

I would like to get an idea of the members interested, the waters preferred, the watercraft available, and the various date options. Also, if you have a larger boat perhaps you're looking for a boat buddy. All of this is a good way to meet and spend time with fellow members.

The following is an incomplete list of options to begin with. If you have a new area you'd like to try, please feel free to discuss the water. All interested parties can make plans from the first contacts. Some ideas from past trips are:

- Sylvania Wilderness Tract
- Various stretches of lower Wisconsin River
- Wisconsin River in central and northern areas
- North Fork of Flambeau River
- Bittersweet Wilderness Lakes near St. Germain
- Lakes in Escanaba research area - Boulder Junction

Please contact Jerry Pasdo 608-345-2198:  
japasdo@gmail.com to start the discussion.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please be watching your email for a Membership renewal notice. We will let you know if your membership has expired. Many members renew for multiple years and may not need to renew at this time. Our membership year runs from January through December. Membership helps fund our monthly speakers and maintain the club website.

# BASS - WALLEYE INTERACTIONS

By Steve Quinn, Dr. Rob Neumann, Dr. Hal Schramm, and Ralph Manns

Reports indicate the abundance of largemouth bass is increasing in certain waters in the northern United States, causing concern among anglers and biologists about the effects of largemouth bass on walleye populations. Such shifts in the abundance of largemouths have occurred in many northern Wisconsin lakes, leading researchers to investigate diet overlap and predation between largemouths and walleyes. A recent study, conducted by biologists with the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and the U.S. Geological Survey, focused on four northern Wisconsin lakes.

Bass and walleyes were collected using electrofishing from May through September in each of two years, and stomach contents were removed using gastric lavage (non-lethal stomach flushing). Food items were identified and quantified, and fish that were partially digested and unidentifiable were identified to species using genetic testing.

Largemouth bass consumed a total of 36 different taxa and walleyes consumed 28 different taxa among lakes and years. Of 945 bass collected, only a single occurrence of bass predation on walleye was observed. This was in one lake in September, where a 19-inch largemouth ate a 7-inch walleye. Walleyes, however, ate bass in all lakes, representing 5-11% of the total walleye diet by weight. Of the 6 walleyes collected, only one ate another walleye.

In the three study lakes, invertebrates were more prevalent in the diets of largemouths and walleyes in May and June, making up 28 to 93 percent of the diets by weight. For bass, these included primarily crayfish, Diptera (flies such as midges), dragonflies, and mayflies, and for walleyes; Diptera and mayflies. In the fourth lake, minnows and small sunfish made up most of the diet of walleyes. After May or June, yellow perch were common prey for both bass and walleyes.

The single incident of largemouth predation on walleye suggests bass predation is not limiting walleye abundance in the four lakes studied, the researchers say. They found, however, that diet overlap between ---- >

these species was moderate to high throughout much of the study, with the highest overlap occurring in August and September when perch increased in the diet of both species. High diet overlap, however, does not indicate competition is occurring, as it isn't known if in these lakes shared food resources are limiting and causing reduced fitness.

Thus, the researchers suggest future studies address the availability and vulnerability of prey, to help determine if competition might be causing shifts in abundance of these important predators.

Dr. Rob Neumann

## MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

By John Cantwell

Thanks to all who responded to our member survey in October. The purpose was to gather opinions and feedback from members. Here are some of the more interesting results.

1. 80% reported they **read the club newsletter** thoroughly.
2. Regarding newsletter content, **banquets and club news rated highest. Tackle and bait information & messages from the president** also rated high.
3. Over 60% rated **fishing trips and outings** high for club activities they would like to participate in.
4. Not many members get news from our **Facebook** page, with only 17% of us using Facebook.
5. 60% of respondents indicated they would be interested in **summer club activities**, including outings and picnics.
6. The type of watercraft listed ranged from **kick boats** and **float tubes** highest; **motor boats** lowest; and **kayak/canoe, shore fishing and wading** somewhere in the middle.
7. Slightly more than half said they **use guides**.
8. Many respondents would like **chat sessions** and **getting tips on fishing locations** at meetings.
9. Over 50% said they prefer a **simple** monthly newsletter/announcement.
10. 96% said they are familiar with the **WSA website** and visit it occasionally.

# Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Jan 17, 2017**

Maple Tree Restaurant,  
McFarland. 7:00 p.m. or come  
early and join us for dinner

## “ Finding and Catching Small River Smallies ”

Presented by Bill Schultz, “His successful techniques will work  
equally well in our Wisconsin lakes and rivers”



Bill Schultz lives in New Berlin, WI. However, he spends a good deal of time in his adopted home town of Sturgeon Bay, WI chasing big water smallmouth bass in this nationally recognized Mecca of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Since catching his first smallie in 1994, he has caught and released 20,000, with over 12,000 coming from small rivers in Southern Wisconsin. Bill's popular talks at sports shows, fishing clubs and fishing events have turned hundreds onto the excitement of chasing smallmouth bass on lakes and rivers throughout Wisconsin.

Bill will talk with us about the great opportunities for smallie fishing on smaller rivers in Wisconsin, as well as opportunities for chasing smallies in kayaks, something he's been doing the past 10 years. He will identify his favorite rivers and share with us those presentations that have helped him catch all those smallies. Bill is a Pro Staffer for Jackson Kayak, Aqua-Bound/Bending Branches Paddles, St. Croix Rods, Malone Auto Racks, Kalin's Lunker Grubs, Crestliner Boats and Mercury Marine. He also has sponsorships with a number of fishing and outdoor companies. And, as always, he will have samples of Kalin's Grubs and Gopher Tackle jigs for all attendees.

**For additional information contact Mike Simon 608-334-4448 or  
Jerry Pasdo 608-345-2198 or visit our website at [www.wisconsin-smallmouth.com](http://www.wisconsin-smallmouth.com)**

# Spring 2017 FLY FISHING OPENER



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017



SPONSORED BY THE BADGER FLY FISHERS,  
MADISON, WI • [www.badgerflyfishers.org](http://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

## LOCATION

American Family Insurance  
Training Center Bldg. A  
6000 American Parkway  
Madison, WI

Use Surface Parking Lots  
1 or 2

## FEATURED SPEAKER

Jason Randall - author, angler and veterinarian

- \* Advanced Nymphing
- \* What Trout See
- \* Catch of Your Life

## **Yahara Fishing Club 20th Annual Kids Ice Fishing Day**

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 9 am - 12 pm

Brittingham Park Shelter, Lake Monona

Go to: [yaharafishingclub.org](http://yaharafishingclub.org) for details