



# Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Ltd.

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

February 2017

## Monthly Meetings

### Wisc. Smallmouth Alliance

Meets 7 p.m. Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland

**February 21** – Bradd Sims, WDNR Fisheries Manager:

2016 survey results and current conditions of smallmouth streams for S. Grant and Lafayette Co.

**March 21** – Speaker: Tim Landwehr, Tight Lines Flyfishing Co., De Pere, Wis.

Smallmouth bass in NE Wisconsin

### Southern Wisc. Chapter TU

Meets 2nd Tuesday of month (Except Jul /Aug) 7 p.m. at the Coliseum Bar, Olin Ave, Madison

### Badger Flyfishers

Meets 4th Monday of month 7 p.m. Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland

### Yahara Fishing Club

Meets Wed. Feb. 8, 7 p.m. at VFW on Cottage Grove Rd. Annual Auction of fishing/boating items

### Capital City Chap. Muskies Inc.

Meets 2nd Monday of month, 7:00 p.m., 5100 Bar, McFarland

## WSA Club Information

wisconsin-smallmouth.com

Mike Simon, 608-334-4448

madisonmike@tds.com

Editor: John Cantwell,

jhcantwell@yahoo.com

## CATCHING SMALL RIVER SMALLIES

By Jerry Pasdo

There are so many streams and rivers only a couple hours from Madison – or even your home town – where you can catch smallies. They are everywhere. At our January meeting, **Bill Schultz** gave us rivers and segments that he suggests. Most of these are wadeable or accessible with small crafts. Here are some of his favorites.

**Pecatonica River**  
**Sugar River**  
**Fever, Platte & Grant**  
**Waupaca River**  
**Rock River**  
**Embarrass River**  
**Fox River**  
**Sheboygan River**  
**Milwaukee River**  
**Oconto River**  
**Peshigo River**  
**Menominee River**  
**St. Croix River**

Lafayette County and its tributaries  
Belleville south through Broadhead  
Southwest Wisconsin  
From the park in Waupaca to the Wolf River  
Beloit/Janesville area and some close tributaries  
Near Waupaca  
Waterford to Burlington and even into Illinois  
Kohler and Sheboygan Falls area  
Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Washington Counties  
Oconto down to Green Bay  
Peshigo down to Green Bay  
East of Pembine  
Especially north of Stillwater

Most of us know the areas to look for fish in rivers. There are the standard boulder fields, rocky river beds, deeper holes, even a sand bottom with logs and the downriver side of trees and stumps – get the idea? Even bridge supports or overhanging banks provide ambush points. Check out the river in low water and look for structure.

One of Bill's favorite baits is the Teeny Weeny Rebel crawfish. He adds a #10 hook to replace a #12 hook for better hookups. Bill has always been a believer in the 4" Kalin Lunker Grub, in either smoke or clear, depending on water clarity. He uses a Gopher Tackle mushroom head jig for the best action with the steady retrieve. His latest "new and best" are the Z Man TRD tube Z and the Finesse TDR. These float so the Z Man jig head lays on the bottom with the lure's tail wagging upright. Jig weights of 1/15 and 1/10 ounce should be sufficient. His other go-to baits have been stick worms, either wacky or weedless, craw bugs, spinners, and buzz baits.

His favorite colors for the Z Man tubz are Black/blue, PB&J, and Molting Craw. And the TRD colors are June Bug, PB&J and Green Pumpkin Goby.

Bill feels moon phases are not as critical on flowing waters as on lakes, but some of the best moon phases in years will be occurring in 2017. And, of course, make use of the gazetteer to locate your bridge crossings and public lands to help in your scouting.

Bill Schultz can be reached at [smalliecentral@gmail.com](mailto:smalliecentral@gmail.com).



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR ...

Our annual fundraiser auction will be held on **Tuesday April 18th, 2017** at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. Doors will open at 5:30 with the auction starting at 6:45. Come earlier for dinner.

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

100% of the proceeds are donated to youth fishing, outdoor education and recreation programs, and restocking and conservation projects. For more information, contact Mike Simon (608) 334-4448 or [madisonmike@tds.net](mailto:madisonmike@tds.net).

DanJohnson photo

---

## LEARNING TO FISH AT 67

by Rich Connor

Three years ago we moved to Madison from the New Jersey suburbs of Philadelphia, where we had been for 45 years. We lived in a wetlands area of the Rancocas Creek, which is actually a river and a tributary of the Delaware River. We were a 25 minute drive to Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell and a 90 minute drive to the Atlantic Ocean and its salt-water bays.

The area has a temperate climate with hot summers, mild springs and falls and winters when the temperatures may occasionally get below 30 degrees. The big snowfalls happen when southern moisture meets a Midwest cold front, which may dump 10 or more inches of snow on the area.

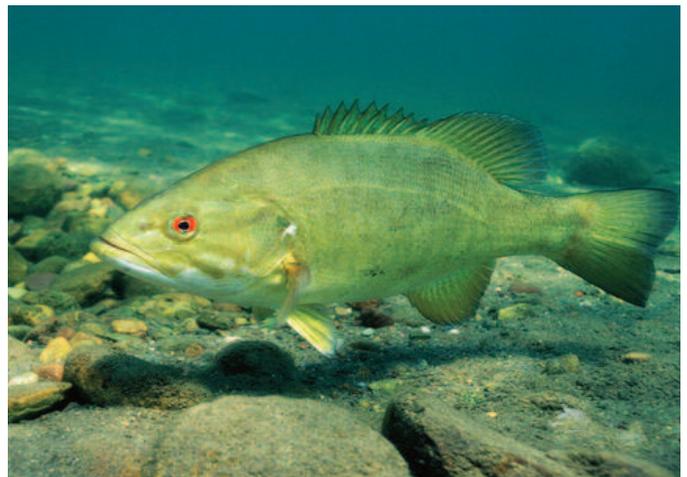
I fished the freshwater of the Rancocas and the Delaware, casting for largemouth bass and occasional --->

pickerel. In the spring, striped bass would migrate into these waters from the ocean to spawn. These much-sought beauties could reach 40+ inches and 30+ pounds. Surface plugs and metal lures could attract their attention but bait fishing with bloodworms was a favorite and effective technique. The striper is one of the best eating fish there is.

Whenever possible I headed to the saltwater to see what success I might have. We targeted striped bass, bluefish (a tremendous fighter), flounder, and weakfish, aka speckled trout. We fished from a boat, from the surf and from docks. We tossed plugs, lures and especially big jigs with a twister tail. The fishing was often pretty good but especially in the fall when fish would be moving south chasing the baitfish and trying to fatten up for the winter. We always tried to use lighter tackle to have more fun even though the possibility of catching a big fish was always present.

When we decided to move to Madison I joined 2 fishing clubs: the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance and the Yahara Fishing Club. I wanted to meet people and to learn the art of local fishing. I succeeded on both. I attended the club meetings and listened closely to the presentations by guest speakers. I also went out with local guides on area waters to learn from the experts.

Most importantly, I developed friendships with members in both clubs. I fished with them on my boat and on their boats. We also teamed up and shared the costs of guides. I learned the different techniques that worked for different species at different times of the year. I learned the art of panfishing. I had never fished for smallmouth bass or northerns, which have become my favorite targeted species. I found most everyone was willing to share their knowledge and took pleasure in broadening my knowledge and ability to "Fish Wisconsinably." The fish I have begun to catch are great fun but my new fishing friendships are the true treasure.



# Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Feb 21th, 2017**

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

**“ 2016 survey results and current conditions of small-  
mouth bass streams for southern Grant and Lafayette Co.”**

Presented by Bradd Sims, Wisconsin DNR fisheries biologist

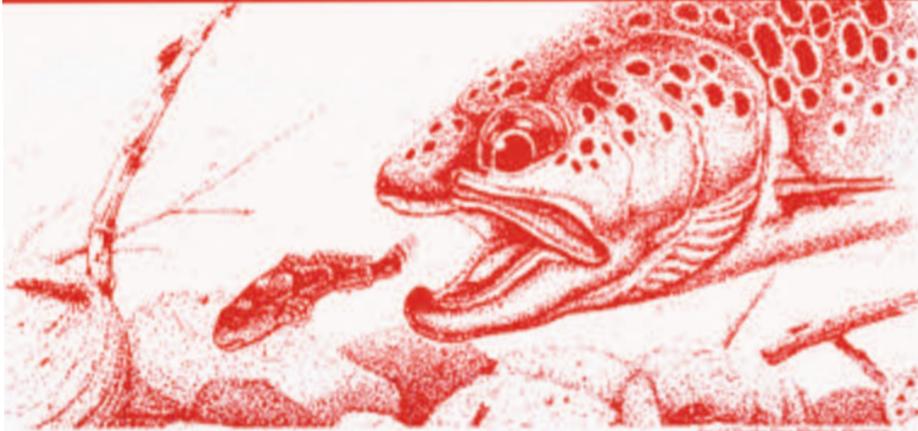


Bradd has worked with the Wisconsin DNR as a fisheries biologist for 18 years in Iowa, Lafayette and Grant counties. Prior to coming to Wisconsin he worked 6 years with the US Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries office out of Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in Southern Illinois. His presentation will cover the status of bass fisheries in the Platte River system and Yellowstone Lake.

**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