



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Preserving and Enhancing Smallmouth Fishing

October 2017

Monthly Meetings

Wisc. Smallmouth Alliance

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland.

Jan. 23 Hunter Dorn

Feb. 26 (Mon) with BFF, Luke Kavajecz from Anglers All

Mar. 20 Abe Downs

Southern Wisc. Trout Unlimited

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 Maple Tree, McFarland

Yahara Fishing Club

Meets 2nd Wednesday of month 6:30 pm, VFW Hall 301 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison

Capital City Muskies

Sept 11, 7 pm - Matt Raley on Vilas & Oneida county lakes. 5100 Bar and Hall, 5100 Erling Av. McFarland

Club Information

wisconsin-smallmouth.com
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Editor: John Cantwell,
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Upcoming Meetings ...

Smallmouth in Northeast Wisconsin Rivers

October 17th

We all hear about the great fishing on the Menominee River. However, the Fox, Peshtigo, and Oconto Rivers are also excellent with less fishing pressure.

Mike D'Nofrio from the WDNR will be telling us about Smallmouth management in those streams and answering questions about some of the better stretches to fish.

Mike has also been one of the lead coordinators for the Menominee River tagging which WSA has supported for years.

Fly Fishing the Yucatan Peninsula

November 21

Steve Vance has been an avid flyfisher from the age of 4. A native Oklahoman, he has fished all across the continental US and in South and Central America.

He is a Wisconsin state licensed flyfishing guide for driftless trout, river smallmouth bass, pike, bass, & musky by boat in area lakes, and seasonal steelhead, brown trout, king salmon, and coho salmon in the Lake Michigan tributaries.

Steve also ties custom flies and builds fly rods. Steve travels to Mexico each year to fish for bonefish, tarpon, permit, and snook.

MISSISSIPPI MOTION

By Jerry Pasdo

I successfully outbid Ken Kosciak at last spring's Fundraiser so I could fish with my son on the Upper Mississippi. We met Kip Vieth, Wildwood Float Trips at his home near Monticello for a day of fishing on the rapidly flowing river. Fortunately the level was reasonable - the flow was over 5,700 CFS.

Weighted, wacky rigged plastics or a jig brought 60-70 SM to the driftboat. Kip knew the spots and expertly guided the Clackacraft thru the rapids and riffles. It really helps to have someone with his knowledge of the river to help free my son's snags. No one kept score but father/son were, as always, competitive. The results were close to equal.

My son Jeremy and I sincerely thanked Kip for donating the trip as well as the many others over the years. Those trips helped fund many of WSA's projects.



WSA will co-host the February 2018 meeting with the Badger Fly Fishers. The date of that meeting will be Monday, Feb. 26th. Please mark this date change on your calendar. Our speaker will be Luke Kavajecz, a multiple species Chequamegon Bay guide, who works out of Angler's All in Ashland.



Door County Smallmouth Bass Meeting

By Bill Schultz

The Wisconsin DNR has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, October 18th at the Crossroads in Sturgeon Bay from 6 to 9 p.m. on the Door County Smallmouth Bass Fishery. The agenda will be:

1. Provide information on the status of the smallmouth bass in the Door County waters

of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

2. Provide an opportunity for discussion and collect feedback about the smallmouth fishery from meeting attendees.

The meeting has been organized by Scott Hansen, Fisheries Biologist, Sturgeon Bay and other Bureau of Fishery Management leaders.



INVASIVES' AWARENESS

By Jerry Pasdo

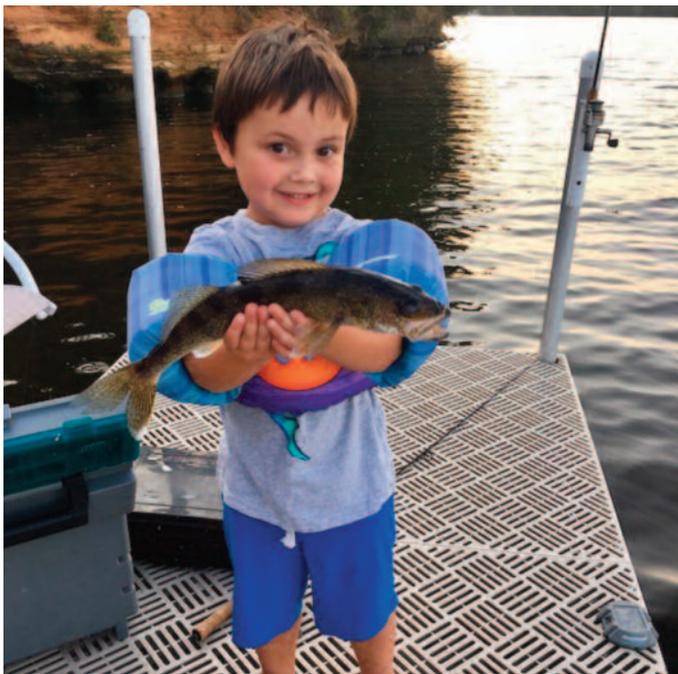
Amanda Perdsock, Aquatic Invasive Species Director for River Alliance, gave us an education, and alarming prospects, for the AIS in and around our waters. Most stream fishers are aware of the New Zealand Mudsnail and their rapid proliferation. The eradication is a long way off since there are no known predators and other methods are not yet financially feasible. A large Zebra Mussel I found on Mendota last week was 50% covered with the little invasives. It's a wonder the clam was able to open its shell. Also there is the spiny water flea. Its only predator is the pumpkinseed which knows how to clip off the "sword" that punctures other fish's stomachs.

Amanda also covered purple loosestrife, curly leaf pondweed, eurasian milfoil, and others. We were

afforded examples of the natural plants and their invasive counterparts. Future issues of our newsletter will have some examples so we can differentiate between the northwoods milfoil, etc, and their invasive counterparts. Your author mentioned a plant to Amanda that he saw growing along the lower Wolf R. near Lake Winnebago a few years back that looked like "a real good corn crop" Upon closer look, the 15-20' tall stem/plume was another invasive. This plant's range started near Lake Michigan and is heading west. The pfragmites are crowding out the natural vegetation causing a disruption in the entire food chain. Costly cutting and spraying by helicopter is attempting to curtail its spread.

And, then there is the rusty crayfish which is eating the vegetation and clearing up the water to the detriment of the aquatics that need plant life to jump start the food chain process.

All in all, the program was very informative. Amanda also briefly touched on a Legacy Fund that River Alliance will be initiating so bequests can be made for the benefit of future generations. This is especially important due to the dwindling financial support from our governmental sources.



Four year old Alex Connery, Gerry Zingg's wife Sandy's grandson. A fifteen inch walleye and a nice bluegill.



**Tim
Holschlag**

Mid and late Fall Smallmouth tips

Fall Period (temperatures 50s down to 40s)

Thirty years ago, 97% of river smallie fans put away their rods at this time. Boy, were they missing out. Even in the north, the mid-and late-fall period can be six weeks long, and farther south is longer yet. But it is not the duration that makes this period so notable. These last days before winter offer some of the very best big bronze angling of the year. Fish are at their heaviest, many are concentrated and plenty are willing biters. Generally, you have these bruisers to yourself, since most other river users have moved on to other pursuits. Even the fall weather is often nice. For all these reasons I love these golden days of fall and I try to get out in the fall as much as possible.

Fish Locations

In northern latitudes, most fish will have settled into their hibernacula (wintering locations) by early October, so if you live in a region where smallmouth move long distances in the fall, perhaps going far downstream or even to a slack-water reservoir, you need to know these winter locations. Even on southern rivers where smallmouth don't make dramatic movements, often by mid-October they've moved into slower water. Slack pools, bank eddies, island and big boulder eddies, downed trees in still water and various other places where fish can escape stronger current all have potential.

Angling Methods

At the beginning, early fall surface fishing can be terrific, especially with propeller top-waters and stick baits worked across tails of pools. But once smallmouth start to focus on minnows the fish will take a variety of shallow run, minnow imitating lures and your catch rates will really skyrocket.

There is a big difference from mid to late fall in which methods produce fish. When rivers are still in the low-to mid-50s you can successfully use various slow and deep techniques. Jigs are standbys, of course, but fat and thin-bodied crankbaits also interest fish when kept low. Even flukes, fat worms and spinners ticking the bottom will pay off.

From River Smallmouth Fishing

Thanks to Tim Holschlag, smallmouthangler.com

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

**Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, Nov 21, 2017**

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

Fly fishing The Yucatán Peninsula

Presented by Steve Vance, Professor at the University of
Wisconsin, Platteville.



Steve Vance has been an avid flyfisher from the age of 4. A native Oklahoman, he has fished all across the continental US and in South and Central America. He is a Wisconsin state licensed flyfishing guide for driftless trout, river smallmouth bass, pike, bass, & musky by boat in area lakes, and seasonal steelhead, brown trout, king salmon, and coho salmon in the Lake Michigan tributaries. Steve also ties custom flies and builds fly rods.

Steve travels frequently to Mexico each year to fish for bonefish, tarpon, permit, and snook. He is a passionate conservationist and maintains affiliations with Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Dubuque Fly Fishers. Currently, Steve is in his 25th year as a professor in the Art Program at UW-Platteville and produces artworks in soft pastel and oil painting mediums.

**For additional information contact Mike Simon 608-334-4448 or
Jerry Pasdo 608-345-2198 or visit our website at www.wisconsinssmallmouth.com**