



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Protect and Enhance Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

February 2019

Monthly Meetings

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Meets third Tuesday. Feb. 19, see page 3 for details.
5:30 pm dinner, program: 7:00
Maple Tree, Hwy 51,
McFarland

Other Local Fishing Clubs

(Check club websites for meeting schedules and programs)

Southern Wisc. TU

Meets 2nd Thursday 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 7 pm, VFW Hall 301
Cottage Grove Rd, Madison

Capital City Muskies

Meets 2nd Monday of month, 7
pm. Coliseum Bar, 232 E.
Olin, Madison until further
notice.

WSA Club Information

wisconsin-smallmouth.com
Mike Simon, 608-334-4448
madisonmike@tds.net

President: Jerry Pasdo
japasdo@gmail.com

Send your stories & photos to:
Editor: John Cantwell
jhcantwell@yahoo.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

Our annual fundraiser auction will be held on Tuesday April 16th 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 and tackle, flies and 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

2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewal notices were sent out via email. If you did NOT receive a notice, it means your membership is current.

If you are a current member and wish to renew, you do not need to send a form, just your name and money. If your personal information has changed (i.e. email address), you can print out a form from our website and send that with your renewal.

Dues are \$20 for one year and \$50 for three years. Memberships run from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st.

Mail renewals to:

WSA
2701 Gust Rd.
Verona, WI 53593

A LOOK AT CATCH AND RELEASE STUDY RESULTS

DNR fisheries biologist Max Wolter discusses the effects of tackle and time on catch-and-release.

Anglers know there is always the right gear for a job, that too heavy of gear might detect fewer bits and too light of gear may not handle large fish, but how does gear strength impact catch-and-release? A study out of Canada explores that question.

Researchers caught bass on rods of various strengths, recording how long it took to play the fish in and how long it took the fish to recover. They released half of the fish immediately but held the remaining fish for two minutes to mimic photo taking or an extended hook removal period.

Not surprisingly, fish caught on lighter gear took significantly longer to land than those on the heavy gear. However, the researchers noted the fish caught on light gear were more 'played out', which led to easier hook removal and the potential for a quicker release.

The study's conclusions indicate that time out of the water is more harmful to fish than being played for a longer amount of time in the water.

Regardless, catch-and-release anglers should strive for as quick a fight as possible and a short time out of the water for all fish they plan to release.

CONSERVATION SPRING HEARINGS

Just an early heads up. Remember last year some resident had an advisory question about "no closed season for bass." The next hearing date is April 8th in our respective counties. The agenda is not yet out but we do know of one issue that we would support. The item pertains to size limits on smallmouth bass, and muskies, on some of the waters in the Namekagon River. We'll have more on this, and any other pertinent items, at a later date. We all need to be proactive to protect our fisheries.

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance 2019 Program Schedule

Feb. 19 Kyle Zempel -- S.America Adventure
Mar. 13 IF4 Film Tour - Bavarian Bierhaus, Milwaukee
Mar. 19 Program speaker - Hunter Dorn
Apr. 16 WSA Fundraiser

LARGEMOUTH BASS VIRUS

Just saw an article post up on one of my various Google searches showing a mottled SMALLMOUTH BASS. Naturally, this caught my attention. Apparently this bass virus has been moving northward and is now present in lakes in the northern part of the Michigan lower peninsula and has been affecting both bass species as well as bluegill and crappie populations. This article was furnished by the Michigan Fisheries and it is to bring our attention to the fishers of Wisconsin to report any evidence in their catch.

The symptoms show themselves as a slow-moving, bottoms up, or erratic swimming patterns. If one catches a fish with these symptoms or one that looks mottled, it should be reported to the WDNR, and preferably given to a warden or WDNR office. This virus can spread rapidly and, as expected, is transmitted by anglers in their movements. The cause has not been determined but hot weather, possible weed removal toxins, or any extra fishing stressor could be a cause. More info on the DNR web page www.Michigan.gov/FishHealth

— Jerry Pasdo

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, Feb 19, 2019

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

“ South America into Chile's Patagonia region ”

Presented by Kyle Zempel
Owner/Guide/Pro Photographer, Black Earth Angling Co.



Kyle guides full time for Driftless trout and the diverse warm water opportunities of the Wisconsin River. Kyle has become well known for his guide work on the Wisconsin River, specifically “The Crash,” and his work with a camera in the field as a fly fishing photographer. His photo work has appeared in The Flyfish Journal, Eastern Fly Fishing, The Drake, aTightloop.com, Midcurrent.com, Hatch.com. Kyle has been lucky enough to fish in Mexico, Bahamas, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, and extensively throughout the United States.

Join Kyle as he ventures across South America into Chile's Patagonia region. This "story telling" style presentation is sure to entertain any angler with an adventurous spirit. Kyle will cover fishing for Golden Dorado in Argentina and big brown trout of Patagonia region. Come out and see this photo heavy presentation.

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

**Yahara Fishing Club Meeting
Annual Garage Sale/Auction**
Find excellent buys on new and used
fishing and boating items.
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7:00 pm
VFW on Cottage Grove Rd.

Spring 2019

FLY FISHING OPENER



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019



**SPONSORED BY THE BADGER FLY FISHERS,
MADISON, WI • www.badgerflyfishers.org
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**



ATTRACTIONS

- Commercial exhibits of the latest and finest in fly fishing equipment
- Raffles, and lively auction
- Fly tying demonstrations

LOCATION

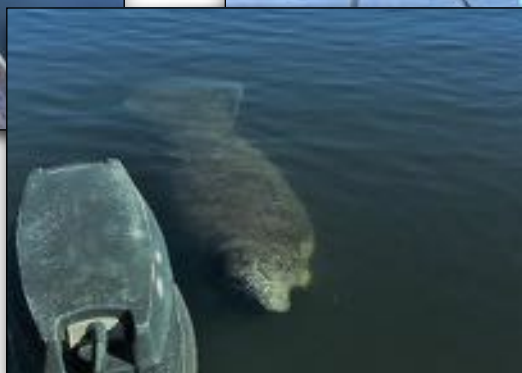
American Family Insurance
Training Center Bldg. A
6000 American Parkway
Madison, WI

Use Surface Parking Lots
1 or 2

FEATURED SPEAKER

Pat Dorsey - Colorado guide, author and fly shop owner

- Western Tailwaters
- Colorado's Best Trout Streams



Clockwise, Rich with baby snook, Dan with major snook and manatee behind boat.

Tidal Fishing in Florida

by Rich Conner

An old fishing buddy from New Jersey, Danny Logue, wrote me that he was now living in Florida and invited me to visit him to fish for a few days. Danny is a guy who catches fish, so I planned to visit him where he lives, about an hour north of Tampa. I flew the new budget airline direct to Tampa, non-stop from Madison.

A main component of fishing along the entire Atlantic coast is the tide. There are 2 high and 2 low tides per day - 4 tidal changes daily. Fish are usually most active during a tidal change. Depending on the type of water you are fishing, the water can change from a depth of many feet to no water at all. Good planning is essential. The first day we fished in Anclote Bay of the Gulf of Mexico. On day two, we fished the Chessahowitzka River which flows to the Gulf through the huge Chessahowitzka Wildlife Management Area. Anclote Bay is a large body of salt water. We left the dock with an incoming tide. Danny picked a spot he likes and geared up as the boat drifted. We fished with medium weight 7' rods, casting jigs with paddletails. The action of the paddletails attracted a variety of fish. We had almost immediate action and boated some sand trout and ladyfish. The ladyfish are hard fighters that love to go airborne. We then went in search of bigger fish. As the bay went to low tide, the fishing slowed down. Danny boated into shallow water following

diving birds chasing baitfish. In water just one foot deep, we saw large snook and red fish but could not get them to bite. It was a fun day with good action.

On morning two we trailered our boat to the Chessahowitzka. A group of kayak fishers were also heading out on the water. This area is a natural wonder. We saw many different birds, amphibians, fish, and most amazing to me – manatees. One manatee swam right next to our boat while drift fishing. It was about 9 ft. long and 800 pounds. Danny actually scratched its back with the tip of his fishing rod and the manatee stayed for more. A mother manatee and her 3' long calf came up for a look. Can it get any better?

Yes, it can get better. We were really catching fish. Danny had us using a suspending jerk bait and instructed me on how to use it to maximum effect. We were casting at docks, shore edge and middle of the river flats with success. The fish were hitting our baits hard. We not only caught a lot of fish, we caught many varieties – bluefish, blowfish, speckled trout, mangrove snapper, snook, ladyfish, etc. The biggest was a 30 ½" snook which gave Danny a great fight. He did release the beautiful (tasty) fish. It was a great day and an excellent combination of action and serenity.

Danny's guide service is called Connected Charters. He fishes in a brand new Xpress 22' boat. He supplies all baits, tackle etc. Although he uses spinning gear, this is also an excellent place for fly fishing. Please contact me if you have any questions.