



# Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

## Protect and Enhance Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

Summer 2019

## Monthly Meetings

### Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Meets 3rd Tuesday, Sept-April  
6 pm dinner, program 7 pm  
Maple Tree, Hwy 51,  
McFarland, WI

### Other Local Fishing Clubs

Check club websites for 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  
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Send your stories & photos to:  
Editor: John Cantwell  
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## Free the Fighter Billboards

If you've been traveling in the greater central Wisconsin area, you may have seen one of these billboards along major highways, headed into Smallmouth country. Five billboards will be posted each month in different locations, from June through September, for a total of 20. So far there are ten up. **See photo of billboard on page 2.**

We can't thank Patterson Leeth and Simms Fishing Products enough for partnering in this conservation effort. Without Simms' major contribution in helping fund this project, the coverage and duration would not have been possible.

We would also like to thank Eric Peterson and the Lamar Companies for the Public Service Announcement program for groups like ours. The June posting (Hwy 53 area) had an estimated 123,936 views per week. The current posting (I39 Stevens Point/Wausau) is estimated at 231,465 viewers per week—Wow!

Part of our ongoing mission is angler education. It's important to make people aware of what a valuable resource SMB are, and that they are a separate and unique species. This message ties in well with our signs posted at landings around the state, and with the nesting brochures that have been distributed. We also have SMB friendly fisheries managers in these areas who listen to and work with us.

The billboards will help make the public aware that there is an organization fighting for SMB in Wisconsin. We're hoping it will help with member recruitment for our club and the newly forming central Wisconsin group.

If you drive by one of the billboards, we hope it puts a smile on your face as you head into Smallmouth country. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

Mike Simon (Madisonmike@tds.net).

**Here are links to maps showing the locations of the billboards for the first two months:**

**June:**

**<http://view.lamar.com/viewer/5cf94d7ba4dfa00d0c1eabb5?iid=5cf94cd7628ba24eb2e58508>**

**July:**

**<http://view.lamar.com/viewer/5d0beaf73f65f6474a87eb14?iid=5d0bea6fa4dfa03c64c49e12>**



**“Free the Fighter” billboard now appearing on Wisconsin highways.**



This is just one of many nice smallies caught on a recent trip on the Mississippi guided by Kip Vieth. This is one caught by my son, Jeremy, who lives near the Twin Cities. Thanks to the donated trip successfully bid on at the fundraiser, the Pasdo twosome caught close to 40 fish with Kip deftly guiding the drift boat into the best casting position. Interestingly enough, this stretch of river only had a couple of homes and a power plant as signs of civilization. This was quite a welcome sight since we were just north of millions of residents.

- Jerry Pasdo





## Summer Adventures ... Not a kid with a cane pole.

By Rich Conner

My wife's family had a reunion on the **Lake of the Ozarks** in June. The resort we chose was very nice with accommodations right on the water. Our cabin had a sea wall about 20 feet from our steps. The water there was 3' deep and went to 20' quickly. There was a lot of open water to toss lures. Bobber fishing with nightcrawlers was effective.

I brought 4 rods with serious intent and another small old rod to use with a bobber with the kids. One early morning late in the week, I went to the sea wall with my rods loaded with my favorites: zara spook, crank bait, stick bait and a white paddletail swimbait. After a long time of no success, I put on all new baits but again no success. I decided to make things easier, so I went up to the cabin for a cup of coffee, my old rod with a bobber and a half empty container of crawlers.

I had some luck with the worms, catching several catfish but realized my 1/32 oz. jig was bent causing me to lose most of my crawlers. I was now down to the last ½ crawler. I tossed

the line out about 10 yards and almost immediately the bobber surged under water. I set the hook and realized that, improbably, this was a big fish. The fish tore off the 4# test line from the reel as it ran deeper into the lake. I figured it to be a decent sized catfish.

Suddenly the fish rocketed out of the water and I was surprised and excited to see that it was a huge large mouth bass. I knew it was likely that a fish this size would either bend the small hook or break the line, so bringing it in and getting it out of the water would be a challenge. After another short run, the bass broke water again. By this time, my daughter and my son-in-law came to see what would happen and to video the event.

My tiny rod bent to the weight of the bass as I got it nearer to the seawall. Finally, he was at the wall and I was able to reach down and lift it onto the grass. It was a beautiful fish and the biggest bass I have ever caught or even seen. In my haste to get the bass back into the water, I did not take the time to weigh and measure it. A local fishing guide told me the fish was at least 22" and 7+ lbs. Earlier in the week I also caught 2 bass on one surface plug – another first! Great fun!!