



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Protect and Enhance Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

May 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 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

2019 Fundraising Auction Wrap-Up

Our Fourteenth Annual Fundraiser raised \$4,300 so far, to be used towards this year's projects. For a change, we had beautiful weather to go along with a great turnout of enthusiastic bidders.

This year we worked to increase the variety of items, expand the silent auction, and keep the live auction to an 8:30 ending time. All went as planned. If anyone has ideas to improve the event or variety of items for next year, don't hesitate to contact me or anyone on the board.

We need to thank many for the success of this event:

- The businesses and individuals who generously donated merchandise and certificates.
- The guides who give up their time to support WSA. Please take time to patronize and thank them.
- The fundraising committee for putting this all together.
- To Bob Harrison for keeping things lively and entertaining.
- The Maple Tree Restaurant for providing a great venue.
- And last but not least, to those who attended as members and guests for their generosity in bidding —Thank You!

Mike Simon, Fundraising Chairman



WSA president, Jerry Pasdo, presenting Kip Vieth (L) with a Life Membership Plaque.

Kip is the 2017 Orvis Freshwater Guide of the Year and owner of Wildwood Float Trips. He has donated a trip to all fourteen of our fundraisers.

WSA thanks Kip for his generosity!

Spring Hearings

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

By Jerry Pasdo

WCC SPRING HEARINGS

As you already may know, the WCC Hearings resulted in both of the resolutions WSA opposed passing. The combination of the online voting and no delineation of LMB and SMB would have helped this resolution to pass. The latter, as we already know, have different habitat (pooling) in cold water periods and also have a slower growth rate.

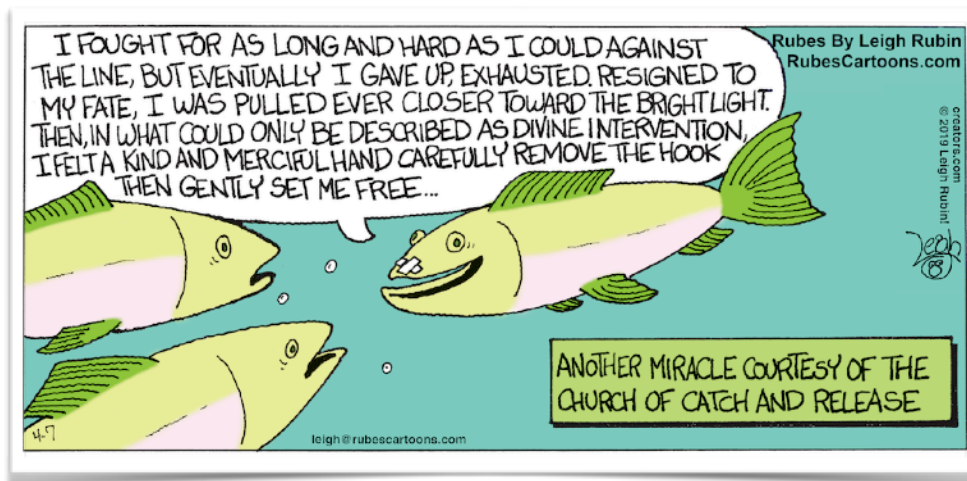
Due to the Milwaukee Journal article supporting WSA in its position and due to input from other fishers and SMB guides, we are all contacting the Natural Resources Board urging them to go slow with these changes. We'd also like them to explore trial lakes before making a statewide change--if they do initiate these changes. The letter to the NRB members is incorporated below and was signed by myself and Board Members at a recent meeting.

First of all, the change in possession rules for tournaments will have a negative effect on the trophy size fish (best reproducers) on the lakes. This would be especially true on the smaller, northern Wisconsin lakes. While the area biologists have a say in the rules, they should have statewide direction from

fishers that have the long-term negative effects of these rule changes.

Secondly, the WSA vehemently opposed the no closed season question. Naturally, we want to protect a fishery that does not get much recognition and support from WDNR: stocking, habitat improvement, etc. WDNR has asked for our help on numerous occasions. Much of this, of course, is financially related. If this rule is implemented, we suggest that it be tried on a few lakes for a period of time and then the population evaluated. Minnesota, a state with similar waters to our state, has seen fit to have a closed season and a C&R season in the fall when the SMB are very susceptible to over harvesting due to their congregating in deeper pools.

If you would like to add some of your input, which SMB of Wisconsin would appreciate, you may email your thoughts to Laurie Ross, Board Liaison. She will disseminate your thoughts to the NRB. Contact her at laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov



Rose Pasdo found this knowing Jerry has a C&R fondness.

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Self-Sustaining Fish Populations

In this issue, DNR fisheries biologist Max Wolter discusses the success of self-sustaining fish populations.

Long-time Sawyer County DNR fisheries biologist Frank Pratt, now retired, has an interesting observation that may change how you think about fish populations. He points out that in a stable, self-sustaining fish population, one should only expect each fish to replace itself once, through successful spawning.

Think about this in the context of a female muskellunge that might lay 100,000 eggs each year for 10 years of her life, totaling 1 million eggs. In a stable population where

the number of muskellunge does not change much, she is a success if just one of those eggs survive to adulthood to replace her in the population.

Some fish are more successful reproductively than others, of course. A female that is diseased or smaller than average might have worse odds of reproductive success. She may never reproduce successfully and have offspring surviving to adulthood. Another larger, healthy female might be lucky enough to have 10 offspring survive to be adults.

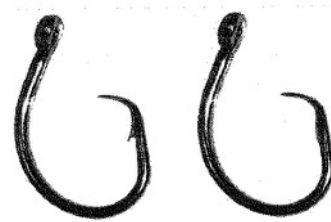
This is what drives natural selection and evolution – the fit not only survive, but successfully pass on their genes to the next generation.

BENEFITS OF BARBLESS CIRCLE HOOKS

By Jerry Pasdo

While many of you are fly fishermen, this author has had very good luck with wacky worm and paddle tail methods on spin gear for both river and lake smallmouth bass. One criticism has been gut hooked fish. The use of the circle hook practically eliminates this unless you wait to finish your sandwich before setting the hook. Much has been written about the use of the circle hook with live bait. We fished with the late Roger Lapenter, using large chubs for bait – per his advice. My son and I boated nearly 30 huge fish using these circle hooks. ALL were lip hooked or hooked in the side of the jaw.

Last summer the author, on his home lake near Hayward, caught 37 largemouth bass in seven hours using the wacky worm with a circle hook. They ranged from 10" to many 15"-18". All were lip hooked. Now there is even a better idea. Circle hooks are hard to remove from a smallmouth's hard jaw. GO BARBLESS. Just clamp down hard on the barb and you're ready to go. As a side benefit it's easier to remove the hooks from your finger, shirt, or hats. This does not in any way affect these fish staying on the hook as you are enjoying the tugging on the other end of the line.



Circle hook barbed and with barb pinched down.



Wacky Worm concept showing worm with rubber band slipped onto worm using the included tool. Then the hook is slipped under rubber band without piercing worm. Available at most stores now, i.e. Fleet Farm.