



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Protect and Enhance Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

September 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
Mike Simon, 608-334-4448
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President: Jerry Pasdo
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Send your stories & photos to:
Editor: John Cantwell
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WSA & WDNR COOPERATE IN STREAM EASEMENT SIGNAGE

Bradd Sims, Senior Fisheries Biologist based in Dodgeville, requested help in replacing or installing new stream fishing easement signs along with our FTF signs on steel posts at select river crossings. Some locations already had deteriorated FTF signs. WSA jumped at the chance to work with the WDNR again. Three teams spent two days installing nearly 20 sets on the Fever (Galena), Platte, and Little Platte rivers. Signs were also installed at Blockhouse Creek, the site of a large stream habitat improvement WSA was involved with a few years ago. All of these have a fishable population of SMB in the SW part of the state.

Not only were tattered signs replaced, but Bradd also gave us the locations for new sign easement locations. Besides installing signs, the crew picked up litter and cut back overgrown vegetation from the stiles. The latter were also inspected for stability and useful life. A side benefit was the picturesque scenery of hills, valleys and farms.

Mike Simon and Jerry Pasdo met with Bradd to ascertain locations prior to the project. Mike Simon collected the posts, signs, hardware, and tools, and he then allocated them in his garage so the work could be finished in a timely manner. Kudos to the members who helped: Dick Marx, Stan Nichols, Jim Hess, Steve Wall, Bob Harrison, and Dennis Brass, who along with Mike Simon and Jerry Pasdo, completed the tasks.

Sept. 17 Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Program
Steve Mortenson



On September 17 the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance has Steve Mortenson as our speaker - **catching more Small Mouth Bass**. He specifically guides on Big Green, the Waupaca Chain of Lakes, and surprisingly, Lake Winnebago. The latter has a great Small Mouth Bass population. These are great bodies of water for large fish.

Steve has 20 years guiding and is ready to share his techniques and tips. Check his website for more info www.anglinadventrues.com.

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance meets at the Mapletree in McFarland at 7pm and come early for a delicious dinner. Contact Jerry Pasdo 608-345-2198. Non members definitely welcome.

WSA RECENT ADVOCACY EFFORTS

As always, WSA is looking for every opportunity to partner with the WDNR or other groups in preserving and promoting our fighting fish. Remember, we are the only advocate for SMB in the state. Many individuals promote their bait, equipment, techniques, and sometimes locations, but none would be effective if there were no SMB. That is why we exist.

Three efforts this past summer add credibility to this "advocacy stuff." They were the billboards on major highways in SMB territory, stream fishing easement sign installation, and yet another tagging project. The billboards were featured in the last newsletter and the sign and tagging are featured elsewhere in this issue. Since this newsletter reaches members throughout the state, perhaps you could reach out to your fisheries biologist to see if they have any projects in mind that WSA could help them with. You can Google WDNR Fisheries Biologists for your county to get the contact information.

COUDERAY RIVER FISH TAGGING PROJECT

Max Wolter, Fisheries Biologist for Sawyer county (Hayward area) is a big fan of ours and vice-versa. In the past he has furnished us with data on the populations and size of SMB in the Namekagon, Chippewa, and Flambeau rivers. His crew has installed a number of our FTF signs at landings on the Chippewa Flowage and key SMB lakes in the region. Then Max requested funds for 200 passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags for a study in the Couderay River. These are undetectable to the angler and remain imbedded in the fish for life.

In 2009, a dam was removed on this river that connects a proven SMB lake, Lac Courte Orielles, with a proven SMB river, the Chippewa. Since that occurred, SMB and sturgeon have been seen in more abundance in this short river. With the GPS information provided the WDNR, they can track where they move from year to year when they recapture a tagged fish. They can also track the growth of the fish which is an under reported piece of information for a stream in that area. Some additional needed information would be to see if they are river or lake fish, or may be their own genetic population. In this short time, 50 fish were tagged ranging in size from 10"-18".



“While waiting for better water on the St. Croix I spent a week fishing up in the UP. Fished five days and did not see another angler, and did catch fish!”

Tom Anderson



Jim Hess, Stan Nichols, and Dick Marx maintaining one of the Free The Fighter sign locations on the Fever River.



“I spent a few days with Bob Harrison and John Beth in his boat on the Menominee, fish were few but big! Figured I'd better join WSA if I'm fishing with Bob. I look forward to meeting you.”
Regards, Scott Allen (above).



Two of the 30 smallies boated by Tom Thrall (top) with Captain Luke Kavajecz on the Chequamegon Bay Trip (rescheduled from 2018). This is Curt Diehl's (left) personal best - 20.5 inches.. Tom and Curt had the winning bid for this guided trip.

Notes from Andrew Ragas newsletter:

Fun day of action packed hair jigging and finessing smallmouth with Jerry Pasdo. Jerry is president of the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance - WSA, and it was a real treat to host the leader of the group that produces all those FREE THE FIGHTER signs we like to see at our region's boat landings. Thanks to organizations like this for their help in promoting conservation and catch and release fishing so that we always have big ones like these to catch.

Fished from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. ...Water temps 66-67 on lake 1, and 69-70 on lake 2. The day's fishing was good. Another 50 fish day was enjoyed on the two lakes we worked hard on. Most fish had completed spawning, but a small percentage of beds were still occupied.

Best fishing took place when we had a slight chop, little clouds, and NE wind to work with. The bite became challenging when the winds died, and from 3-5 pm was a struggle. Fish of all

sizes caught, many 14-16" males, some spawned out females at around 18" and Jerry hit two beauties at about 19" - just shy of 20" as the closer of our day.

All fish were rock and gravel oriented, 4-8ft depths. Rock flats, mid lake humps, boulders, sand bars, lay downs and wood. Black hair jigs (3/32 oz.), my supersize ned rigs, smoke/ shad pattern Kalin's Fishing lunger grubs, and coffee tubes took all fishes. After this week I'm no longer sure why I keep 10 rods rigged and ready on the rear deck for my casting and experimentation since it's obvious what the clear winners are right now.

Full day trips again today and tomorrow. This same pattern my boat has been on will continue on today before we might revisit the drawing board for tomorrow and changing conditions.

Andrew Ragas

www.northwoodsbase.com

