



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Protect and Enhance Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

January 2019

Monthly Meetings

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Meets third Tuesday.

Jan. 15, see page 2 for details.
5:30 pm dinner, Program at 7 pm. 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 6:30 pm, VFW Hall 301 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison

Capital City Muskies

Meets 2nd Monday of month 7 pm. 5100 Bar and Hall, 5100 Erling Av. McFarland

WSA Club Information

wisconsinssmallmouth.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

THE HIDDEN RESOURCE IN OUR VALLEYS

The winding streams of SW Wisconsin not only afford us with scenic beauty, but also with some quality fishing opportunities. With all these positive attributes of the area, Jerry Pasdo, President of the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance, Ltd. (WSA) still expresses concern about the future quality of the water and especially as it relates to the Smallmouth Bass. The fish are primarily aggressive sight feeders and a cloudy environment works to their disadvantage. This severely affects their growth and numbers. Also, the excessive use of fertilizer and manure runoff can cause fish kills as have occurred in these areas in the past. A fish kill negatively affects the perception of a region for years.

Many of these rivers are lined with fields of corn and other crops. Bill Schultz, Smallmouth Bass enthusiast and outdoor writer/speaker, wondered about the runoff from these fields that have most likely been treated with pesticides. Also, some farmers use manure as fertilizer, and this is a problem for the rivers during rainstorms. This is especially true if the manure is applied when the field is frozen. A dairy cow that produces 75 gallons of milk also produces 144 pounds of manure according to the US Department of Agriculture and the American Society of Biological Engineers.

Not only are the "additives" to the water harmful, but also the increased siltation of some of the streams can reduce the primary forage for this fighting fish. This accumulation of silt also eliminates the primary spawning habitat, says Pasdo. The rocky/gravelly substrate is important to the smallmouth's survival. I'm sure many property owners along the rivers in SW Wisconsin would love to see cleaner water in their streams. But many don't know how to go about it, so possibly educational seminars from the DNR might help, says Schultz.

The WSA has worked with the WDNR on previous stream improvements and is very willing to help in the future. This is especially important in the time of tight budgets. Stakeholders and recreational users must be continually vigilant.

This article is the result of an inquiry by WSA member Marci Hess asking us to make some comments concerning streams in SW Wisconsin. Members Bill Schultz and Jerry Pasdo collaborated on the article. The waters, while pristine at times, are subject to the same environmental issues as other waters. This article was sent to three area papers: The Pecatonica Leader, The Republican Journal, and The Dubuque Herald.

BOARD ELECTIONS AT JANUARY MEETING

As per a change in our Bylaws a few years back, WSA will hold elections every 3 years instead of annually. Members are elected for 3 year terms to add continuity and to avoid the time consuming annual election. We still will accept nominations from the floor and it appears that all current Board members are interested in remaining active. In addition, Ken Koscik, long time and active member, volunteered to also be on the Board. The elections will be held at the start of our next meeting. Contact Jerry Pasdo with questions or if you have interest in serving the WSA.

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance 2019 Schedule

Feb. 19 Kyle Zempel -- Recent destination trip
Mar. 13 IF4 Film Tour - Bavarian Bierhaus, Milwaukee
Mar. 19 Program speaker - Hunter Dorn
Apr. 16 WSA Fundraiser

January 15 Program Presented by Rick Krueger

Diving in Area Lakes & Interpreting Side-scan Sonar



Rick has spent most of his 65 years on the Madison lakes; fishing, Scuba diving (certified in 1991) and spent hours on the water searching their depths, first with regular sonar, and then side scan sonar since 2005.

To date he has found over 60 sunken boats, four cars that all went through the ice in the 1920's within two weeks of each other, and literally tons of long forgotten objects. He

has searched with underwater metal detectors, finding Civil War era bullets (donated to the Civil War museum) as well as countless lures and weights (and obviously lots of cans and other trash). He document rock areas, changes in bottom composition, logs, cribs and other structure.

Join us at 7 pm for this interesting program.