



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Protect and Enhance Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

March 2019

Monthly Meetings

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Meets third Tuesday, Mar. 19, see page 4 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

ANNOUNCING OUR 14th ANNUAL FUNDRAISING AUCTION

Mark April 16, 2019 on your calendar, as that's the date of our fourteenth annual fundraiser at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. Doors will open at 5:30 to allow time for socializing and dinner, viewing the auction items, and bidding on the Silent Auction items. Winning bidders of the Silent Auction will be announced promptly at 6:45, followed by the live auction. As always, this event is open to the public with no admission fee.

This year we'll be featuring trips to some of the best destinations in the Midwest for smallmouth bass. From the Mississippi to the Wisconsin, Lake Mendota to Lake Superior, we've got it covered. Please take time to go to the website to look at those trips. While you're there, check out the links to these guides and consider booking a trip for the upcoming season. You won't regret it.

We will also have rods, reels, bags, packs, flies, lures, and assorted gear for both the spin and fly angler. With names like St. Croix, Simms, Sage, Redington, Fishpond, Boga, Orvis, Shimano, and Bass Pro, we're able to cater to a broad spectrum of discriminating anglers. Also featured are fly and lure assortments made by our talented members.

To appeal to an even wider range of attendees, we will have handcrafted items in several mediums, restaurant and gift certificates, Fiskars gardening tools, optics by Vortex, the popular Stihl equipment raffle, and goodies to satisfy your sweet tooth. Want to see more? Go to our website to keep up with the growing list. Check it regularly. We will also have a list in the April newsletter.

I'm sure you are aware that we have this one event to fund the coming year's projects. Participation at any level is helpful. The single biggest thing our members can do is to attend the event and bring a friend or two. As many of you have experienced in the past, a roomful of people to enjoy the camaraderie and bid on the variety of items sure adds to the enjoyment of the evening. If you have an item you'd like to contribute, please contact me or any of the board members listed on our web site.

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Distant members will once again have the opportunity to bid. If you are one of these members and see a trip or item of interest, contact me or another board member to place a bid for you.

As always, we remind everyone that all of this is made possible by our very generous donors in support of our club and its cause. These include generous guides who donate trips, business partners who donate fantastic merchandise, and our numerous members who contribute a variety of items. Please show your appreciation by patronizing them.

Payment can be made by cash, check, or credit card; there is an ATM available on site. By starting earlier again this year, our goal is to have things wrapped up by 9 PM. Final details will be in the April newsletter and on our website. We look forward to seeing you there!

—Mike Simon, Chairman

WHERE'S THE MONEY GOING?

With our fourteenth annual fundraiser coming in April, we want to keep members and donors informed of how the money is appropriated. To date, \$62,000 has been raised to fund numerous projects. Last year's projects were:

- Kids on Ice & Kids Summer Fishing Day, Dane Co.
- Youth Conservation Days in Sauk Co.
- Youth in the Outdoors in NW Wisconsin,
- Dane Co. Parks, Jenni & Kyle Fishing Day Event
- FLOW- Kids Don't Float @ Lower WI River landings(Our donations impacted over 3,000 kids in various programs)
- Nesting cover brochures continue to be distributed around the state, as well as placement of our "Free the Fighter" sign.
- Defenders of our waterways: The River Alliance of Wisconsin, Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, and the Upper Sugar River Watershed Assoc., and Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition.

We are currently working on a project to have billboards in western and central Wisconsin, to raise angler awareness of smallmouth bass and the importance of catch and release.

We're also working with a group of smallmouth enthusiasts across central WI who are interested in forming a WSA club.

The following Resolution will be presented at the Sawyer County Hearings.

WSA will be writing a letter of support to this effect. As you can see elsewhere in this issue, there will be changes and items of concern ahead for SMB. We will need to be addressing future needs of our favorite fish, per our mission statement, with resolutions of our own. Please stay tuned because we will involve the membership for input before proceeding.

"River fisheries can be especially sensitive to flooding, silting and over harvesting. As part of a National Scenic Riverway, the Namekagon River is a valuable economic resource for Sawyer County, attracting visitors such as canoe/kayak campers, day trip rafters and catch & release anglers. The 2018 fish census conducted by the DNR has shown reduced population of smallmouth bass and musky in the river. Mussel studies show that mussels require a *fish host* to carry and disperse their egg stages. Therefore, to support the local economy, maintain a healthy fish and mussel populations and to be consistent with other DNR bag limits and other National Park policies this resolution is calling for increased size limits and reduced bag limits.

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the bag limit on the Namekagon River in Sawyer County on smallmouth bass and musky is reduced to one and that the *keep* size minimum is increased to 18" for smallmouth bass and 50" for musky."

Spring Hearings, Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Monday, April 8, is the date for the annual hearings regarding rule change questions coordinated by the Wisconsin Conversation Congress. Again, this year, there are issues affecting SMB. Please “Google” the Spring Hearings via the Wisconsin Conservation Congress website and look over items of interest – there are many. Those questions affecting SMB are listed below. WSA has the same negative position of question #11 as it had last year. After reading the question, Mike Simon called the coordinator of WCC to place a correction note that not all surrounding states have all year open season. Minnesota, which is considerably more comparable to Wisconsin than Iowa and Illinois, has a closed season March/April and also has a C&R starting the third week in September.

One does not need attend the actual hearing because response can be completed online on the evening of the the hearing. The entire process is listed very simply in the WCC site. The questions of interest statewide are #10 and #11. The other questions show the WDNR concern for the SMB population.

#10. Do you favor an exception that allows participants in permitted fishing tournaments to adhere to the statewide standard 5 fish bag limit and 14 in. minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth

bass, as long as all bass are released back to the same water body?

#11. Do you favor establishing a statewide, including Michigan Boundary Waters, continuous open season for bass fishing but allows fish to be retained only during the current traditional season?

#33. Do you favor applying an 18 in. minimum length limit and one fish daily bag limit on smallmouth bass in Pipe and North Pipe lakes in Polk County?

#48. Do you favor creation of a temporary fish refuge for the Mink River in Door County which would extend the normal spring closure until June 15th?

There is an explanation for each proposal rule change. Remember, per above, the explanation in #11 is incorrect. It behooves all our membership statewide participate in this hearing since online responses can bring out many non-fishers/hunters and our voices will need to be heard.

Jerry Pasdo

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:

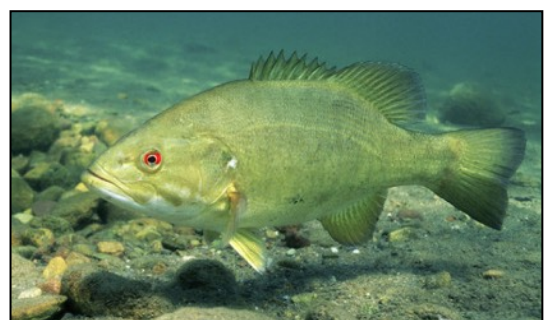
WSA
2701 Gust Rd.
Verona, WI 53593

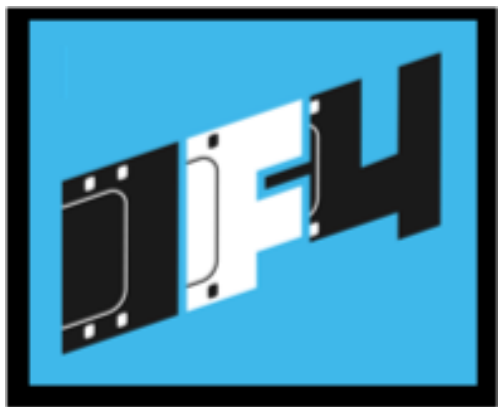
Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance 2019 Program Schedule

Mar. 13 IF4 Film Tour - Bavarian Bierhaus, Milwaukee

Mar. 19 Program speaker - Hunter Dorn

Apr. 16 WSA Fundraiser





Wednesday March 13th

Doors: 4:30pm Films: 7:00pm

Bavarian Bierhouse

700 W. Lexington Ave

Glendale, WI 53217

IF4 Fly Fishing Film Tour - Milwaukee Date and Location Announcement!

This year's film tour will be held at the [Bavarian Bierhouse](#) on March 13th. The Bavarian Bierhouse features their own brewery and is a full-service restaurant with lots of parking.

Once again all profits will go to the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance and Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. The IF4 Film Tour date is March 13th. Doors open at 4:30PM with films starting at 7:00PM. Tickets are available at The Fly Fishers 14740 W. Greenfield Ave. Brookfield, WI 53005 or online at [TheFlyFishers.com](#) or through the [IF4 website](#). Tickets are \$20.

When ordering a single ticket be sure to select the \$1 "Single IF4 Film Tour Ticket" shipping option - two or more tickets will automatically ship for free!

Door prizes and bucket raffle items courtesy of Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance and Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Attendee's qualify for free door prizes and a special Grand prize from the The Fly Fishers.

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance and **Southeast Wisconsin TU** thanks Pat Ehlers for giving us the opportunity to help at this event.

Mike Simon has tickets (\$20) and will bring them to the next WSA meetings or you may contact him 608-334-4448. Remember, 50% of the ticket sales will be returned to WSA for our assistance at this event.

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, Mar 19, 2019

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

**“ Tactics for the springs higher water levels and
colder temperatures ”**

Presented By Hunter Dorn
Wisconsin Fly Fishing Company Owner/Guide



Wisconsin Fly Fishing company's Hunter Dorn, will invite you into his thought process as a guide and fly tier for finding fish in varying spring flows.

We are the only outfitter company in Wisconsin that offers both Walk and Wade, and Float trips for inland trout in Wisconsin. Hundreds of miles of spring creeks offering epic dry fly hatches as well as opportunities to float down a couple of rivers and target trophy brown trout.



From May through October we are on the Smallmouth and Musky hunt full time. With thousands of miles of rivers in Northern Wisconsin the possibilities are endless. There is truly no better way to take in Wisconsin's Northwoods then comfortably floating down a river feeding poppers and streamers to aggressive Smallmouth and Musky.

Wisconsin Fly Fishing Company, 1319 Woodland Avenue, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, United States 6085771884 hunter.dorn@yahoo.com

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