



MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM
The Hatch

Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers, Inc
www.speakeasy.org/~MLSFF

September
2007

August Meeting on the Water:

Smallmouth at Newburg



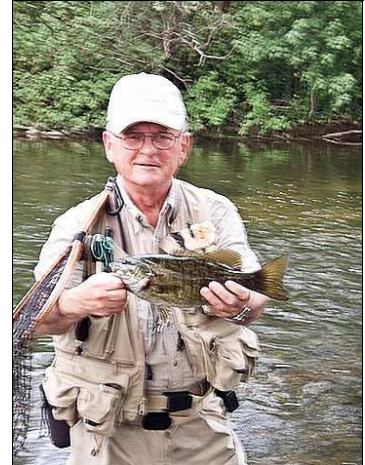
Joe Valkoun, hippest of the bunch

We had a very good turnout for the Meeting on the Water at Newburg; about a dozen folks showed up for the evening! While most of us spread out along the water at Fireman's Park in Newburg, three or four the folks ventured upstream a few miles to Goeden Park to check out the water there.

The water was nice and clear, and as you can see from the picture of **Ron Wojack** above, there were a number of nice riffles and pools to drag your fly through!



Warren Huck gearing up to go



Ken Zielinski releasing a nice smallmouth to fight again .

Ron Wojack with a nice fight on his hands... and then ...with the smallmouth in his hands .

The Smallmouth Trip from Hell:

Four Smallmouth Rivers in Five Days

By Harry Blessing

This story tells how we survived The Trip from Hell, what fish we caught and the flies that caught them, where we stayed and the relationship to the Cicero mob.

Six of us took The Smallmouth Trip from Hell: Joseph Meyer, owner of One More Cast fly shop in Countryside, who organized the trip, Steve Culen, a retired Union President and Catholic Charity President and a member of a Medical School Board, Ralph Loza, from Underwriters Laboratory, Craig Winter, a retired businessman, Stan Zarnoweicki, who owns a restaurant supply business, and me, a retired telephone switching system designer. Joseph and Stan drove.

I've fished with my friend Joseph before in Florida and Michigan. Ralph, Stan and Steve are friends from the DuPage River Fly Tyers (DRIFT).

We traveled with our three drift boat guides: Bart Landwehr and Matt, from Tight Lines fly shop in De Pere, Wisconsin and Kip Vieth, owner of Wildwood Float Trips in Edina, Minnesota.

Here is our itinerary: we drove to the Menominee, stayed overnight, and then fished the river. After fishing we drove to the N. Fork of the Flambeau, stayed overnight, and then fished the river. After fishing we drove to the St. Croix, stayed overnight, and then fished the river. After fishing we drove to the Mississippi, stayed overnight, and then fished the river. After fishing we drove home to Chicago, arriving at two in the morning. Driving or fishing all day, then driving every night is why this was called The Smallmouth Trip from Hell.

I caught about a dozen smallies, from twelve to nineteen and one half inches, each day, mostly on poppers, but some on streamers, as did the other guys.

Wednesday night we stayed at the luxurious Four Seasons Resort in Pembine, Wisconsin. It was originally built by a railroad baron from Milwaukee who went to jail for using the railroad's money to build the resort and went bankrupt. It later burned to the ground, was rebuilt and operated for many years as a private resort for wealthy Chicago businessmen.

This is the same Golf Resort that later gained notoriety in a criminal case against Betty Loren Maltese, Cicero town president. She was convicted, along with seven others, some of whom were mob guys,

for investing five million dollars in stolen money in the golf resort. They were convicted of stealing a total of twelve million dollars from the town of Cicero. They stole most of the money from the town employee's health insurance funds. Their goal was to build a gambling center on the eighty acre Menominee River Island where the resort is located.

The resort was confiscated by the government and sold at auction. The new owners resold it and the next owners invested an additional six million in the property.

Thursday, the Menominee fished wonderfully for Stan and I and we saw an Eagle nest with a large chick (?) in it. I have two more float trips, a two day and a three day, scheduled on the Menominee this summer.

Friday, the North Fork of the Flambeau was especially beautiful to me. I fished with Steve whom I fished with before in Canada. Our guide Bart claimed we missed a number of fish because we didn't want to set the hook while delivering a joke punch line.

Saturday, there were no homes on the beautiful St. Croix which is a Designated Wild and Scenic River. It's much wider than the other rivers. In one spot we had to get out and walk downstream while the guides walked the boats through some shallow, tight, whitewater. I enjoyed a great day's fishing with Ralph.

Saturday night, Stan, outrageously, treated the guides and us to dinner in a private room at his brother-in-law's wonderful downtown Minneapolis restaurant, to the tune of \$600. We all chipped in for a \$200 tip. I had a cocktail, fork tender Kobe-Beef pot roast, and wine with dinner.

Sunday we fished the Mississippi. It fished very well but I was tired and fell asleep. Joseph cracked up when Kip woke me at a good popper spot and I stood up and shook some line out to get ready to make a cast. My popper went under; I set the hook and shouted, "A big smallie just committed suicide on my hook". The nineteen and one-half inch smallie was my trip largest.

We drove home afterward and arrived at Joseph's shop at 2 am, Monday morning.

I'm glad I went because I scratched some old itches, seeing four good rivers I've been dreaming of. But I won't sign up for next year's Smallmouth Trip from Hell until I catch up on my sleep and rest my casting arm.

Trip from Hell - Details on Tackle and Techniques

I used a new eight weight, 100 foot, Rio Clouser line the whole time. It casts wonderfully, has a two-step body and shoots very well.

We used eight weight rods because we needed to stay about fifty feet from the bank in the clear water, cast large popper and streamer flies, and keep the false casts to a minimum to minimize arm fatigue over four days of casting.

We cast tight to the bank in the quiet water for most of the trip. The best water seemed to be where there was a rocky shore especially if there were lots of big rocks/boulders above and or below the water. Skinny water next to deep water was good also. Some eddies were good and some weren't.

The guides kept us at a good casting distance from the bank and told us where they knew of especially good spots to cast. They wore sandals so they could jump out and maneuver the boat through shallow stretches or drag the boat ashore.

Each guide had a very large supply of flies. One guide had about six double sided foam lined attaché cases, each stuffed with a particular type of fly, e.g., poppers, divers, streamers, etc.

The foam poppers were just foam cylinders. They were not cupped in back or hollowed in front but some had a slight downward nose taper for easier pickup. They had very full synthetic fiber tails. I used chartreuse with a matching tail most of the time for ease of visibility.

I would usually only pop the fly two or three times before casting again. The guides said to wait five seconds after a pop before popping again or picking up to recast to give the fish a chance to find the fly.

The streamer flies had light-weight plastic eyes, not lead dumbbell eyes which cause flies like the Clouser Minnow to sink to the bottom and turn upside down and become semi-weed less. This allowed us to fish the middle of the water column instead of the top of bottom.

The streamer flies were fished with a twitch followed by a pause, in a wounded minnow way, similar to a Fluke type lure on spinning or casting tackle.

I was able to cast the eight-weight all day without straining my arm and shoulder too much. I did take an ibuprofen when my casting fell off on two of the afternoons and shortly after my casting picked up again. I didn't cast continuously, unless the bank looked fishy.

All the flies I fished were barbless and I had to keep a tight line or the fish would get off if I couldn't strip fast enough.

The drift boats were all Clackacrafts and they were comfortable to fish from. They have a front leg brace for locking two legs while standing and casting. The rear brace was for locking one leg and worked well for me.

The guides had big coolers, portable tables and benches. They supplied lunch and Joseph made sure they had plenty of diet soda, water and the whole wheat bread sandwiches Steve and I preferred, since we are both diabetic.

I got to see four rivers I've dreamed about fishing. They were alike in many ways with hardwood trees on both sides, unlike the cedars and pines of the Michigan Rivers I more frequently fish for trout and steelhead. I'd like to do a fall trip when the hardwoods are in color.

It was a very tiring trip because of driving each evening after fishing unloading in a new motel then re-loading in the morning to go to the next destination.

I might go back to the Mississippi to fish the Fort Ripley stretch with Kip. I went to Ripley several times for National Guard Summer Camp and have wondered about the fishing ever since.

Joseph is organizing a trip to the Mississippi in August and Kip said he'd guide me on the Ripley stretch but I've got a lot of fishing scheduled already this year so I'll have to go another year.

If you go, bring a fast action 7-8 weight capable of casting BIG poppers, lined with a Rio Outbound or Clouser taper and perhaps a sink-tip fly line, finger stripping guards, Polarized glasses and a broad brimmed hat. A selection of LARGE Popping bugs with rubber legs, some LARGE (4 inch) Clouser or Murdich minnows, a few large Woolly Buggers and some stout leaders (7-8 foot 0X/10-lb.), sunscreen and some "Deep Woods" Off! insect repellent, a waterproof boat bag and you'll be all set.

Ed. Note: Harry Blessing is a member of the DuPage River Fly Tyers, and this story was passed along to us by Dick Dragiewicz.

Fishing in Other Places:

The GAFIA Outing!

By Todd Wichmann

Okay, what the heck is a GAFIA, you ask? Well, it's a group of Wichmann family relatives that do a "Get Away From It All" outing each year...

We had a great outing on the Big Horn River! On the first day we all did a float trip - four boats total, each boat had two GAFIA members plus a guide. We floated down 13 miles of the Big Horn river, starting at the dam where the tailwater starts at 7AM and left the water at around 6PM. The early part of the day was perfect, sunny 70-80 degrees, but by the late afternoon it was 100 degrees. The river stays around 50 degrees the whole time - hot and cold at the same time.

We all caught a ton of fish - each boat (2 guys) had around 40 fish hooked and about 25 fish landed in the net per boat (no one was skunked). We all agreed this was the best fishing we've ever experienced. The guides were a great help. They tied on all the flies, fixed all the lines, helped with casting and landing, and rowed the boat; all allowing the guys fishing to concentrate on throwing lines out constantly. A float trip on the Big Horn is the only way to go!

Even the newbie Dave Graham did great - Dave caught 8 fish and caught the biggest (heaviest) fish all day! In the picture on the next page Dave looks like he's saying "oh crap!"



Now, Todd... That's NOT what the Irish were thinking about when they spoke of the "pot" at the end of the rainbow — Ed.



Barry Wichmann with a nice hookup!



Barry with a nice rainbow.

We were all happily amazed at how big the fish are in the Big Horn - all of the fish were over 12 inches and many were over 18 inches. Some of the better pics of the trip follow on the next page.

We “double-nymphed” all day (no surface activity) - best flies were size 18-20 orange and pink scuds, sow bugs, and a gray and tan "Ray Charles" . It was named the “Ray Charles” because they work so well, even a blind man can use it!

It was a totally fantastic trip!

— Todd



Hmmmm... I'm not even going to ask what was happening HERE! — Ed.



Todd with a hookup in the shallows



A nice Big Horn Brown.

Been there...Done THAT!. — Ed.



September Meeting:

Fishing the Driftless Area

Mark **Tuesday, September 11th** on your calendar for a presentation by Jim Bartelt, a Madison based fly fishing guide. Jim is going to tell us how he fishes southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area spring creeks. These streams, as you know, offer extensive fly fishing opportunities for brook, brown and rainbow trout. Get some fresh tips on how to fish the Driftless Area by coming to Jim Bartelt's presentation and then hire him for a guided fishing trip on his home waters.

Join us at **YesterYears Pub**, 9427 W. Greenfield at 6:00 pm for a burger, a beer and fish stories!

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

September Outing:

Trout Fishing on the Onion River

Join us on **Saturday, Sep 22nd** for a day of trout fishing on the Onion River, northwest of Waldo in Sheboygan County. The Onion is a small stream that has received a lot of restoration work by Trout Unlimited. We're figuring to start fishing upstream of Cty. Hwy E, between there and the cemetery.

If you want to carpool or caravan out to the Onion, meet Greg Schick at the Pettit Center at 7:00 am. Don't be late; he'll leave at 7:15 am. They'll also make a stop at Brown Deer Rd. at about 7:30 am. If you want to drive yourself, a map will be posted on the club website.

Book Alert!:

"Barr Flies" Just Released!

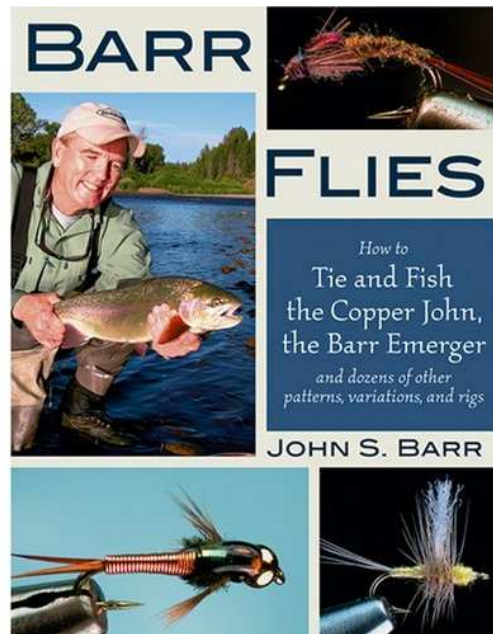
If you tie your own flies, this is a "must have" for your library!

Written by John Barr, the man behind the Copper John and Barr Emerger, as well as many other innovative flies, the book includes stories on the development of the flies and how to fish them.

The step-by-step tying instructions and beautiful photographs were done by Charlie Craven, owner of Charlie's Fly Box in Arvada, CO.

Tying these flies becomes very easy to do, and will give your fly tying skills — and your fishing results — a real boost!

Buy it! You'll like it!



Retail price of the book is \$39.95.

It's available from Amazon.com for \$26.37 (plus shipping). Barnes and Noble lists it for \$28.76 for members (although that might be an online price).



**PARACHUTE PATTERN
WITH SAFETY CHUTE**

***Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers
Officers and Committees***

Officers / Board of Directors

Greg Schick, President
262-635-0522
gaschick@wi.rr.com

Ken Zielinski, Vice Pres.
414-425-9077
flyyeguy@wi.rr.com

Frank Stetzer, Secretary
414-481-8935
stetzer@csd.uwm.edu

Jim Johnson, Treasurer
262-549-4868
jjrdjohnson@yahoo.com

Peter Alba, Member at Large
262-780-6259
Palba@Amfam.com

Mike Drout, Member at Large
mkd@bizwi.rr.com

Joe Valkoun, Member at Large
414-481-9987
Jcvalkoun@milwpc.com

Ron Wojack, Member at Large
414-281-2947
wojaxx@wi.rr.com

Committees:

Education:

Dick Dragiewicz, 847-498-3260 obiobiobi@ameritech.net
Greg Schick, 262-635-0522 gaschick@wi.rr.com
Ken Zielinski, 414-425-9077 flyyeguy@wi.rr.com

Programs:

Dick Dragiewicz, 847-498-3260 obiobiobi@ameritech.net

Fly Tying:

Greg Schick, 262-635-0522 gaschick@wi.rr.com

Food:

Beth Kyte, 414-559-5983 eakyte03@yahoo.com

Hatch Editor:

Greg Schick, 262-635-0522 gaschick@wi.rr.com

Membership:

Joe Valkoun, 414-481-9987 jcvalkoun@milwpc.com

Raffle Merchandise:

Dave Gonzales, 262-498-0629 flytying2415@yahoo.com

Outings:

Ken Zielinski, 414-425-9077 flyyeguy@wi.rr.com

Web Master:

Frank Stetzer, 414-481-8935 stetzer@csd.uwm.edu

MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS

2007-08 CALENDAR

	September	October	November
Meeting	11th	9th	13th
Outing	22nd	Salmon on the Sheboygan 20th	TBA
Fly Tying	12th and 26th	10th and 24th	14th and 28th
Notes			

	December	January	February
Meeting	11th	8th	12th
Outing	None	1st Paradise Springs "Opener"	13th and 27th
Fly Tying	12th Only	9th and 23rd	12th and 26th
Notes		Annual Paradise Springs Wine & Cheese Fest	

Meeting:	7 pm Yesteryears Pub & Grill 9427 W. Greenfield
Outing:	Meet at 6:30 am at Park & Rides lots. See Hatch for details.
Fly Tying:	Sportsmen's Warehouse (I-43 & Mooreland Rd.) from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

The Hatch is the monthly newsletter of the Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers, an incorporated nonprofit organization affiliated with the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers meets the 2nd **Tuesday** of each month at 7 p.m. at **Yester-Years Pub & Grill, 9427 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI**

Meetings **May through August** are on the water. Read **The Hatch** for locations or go to our website

Send correspondence to:
Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers,
P.O. Box 370668
Milwaukee, WI 53237

Submit contributions for **The Hatch** by the 20th of the month to:

Greg Schick, Editor
 at: gaschick@wi.rr.com