

Badger Fly Fishers

An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers



Newsletter

June 2014

Spring Opener 2015

Our Spring Opener committee has already done some good work planning next year's event, and there are some exciting details to report.

First, mark the date on your calendars: Saturday, February 14th 2015. Yes, it's Valentine's Day so you will definitely want to bring your sweetie along.

Our featured speaker will be Craig Mathews, fly designer, angler, guide, author, and owner of Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, Montana.

In the morning Craig will discuss Yellowstone hatches and how they relate to our local bugs. His afternoon talk will be everything you always wanted to know about Tenkara fishing.

Tenkara roots began in Japan over a 100 years ago and was first observed by a westerner in the late 1800's, a British diplomat named Ernest Satow. More recently, Craig began fishing these rods with good friend and co-founder of 1% for the Planet, Yvon Chouinard about four years ago and has been fishing them full steam ever since.

These long rods are capable of getting beautiful presentations in pocket waters and can reach

over multiple currents. They're ideal for small streams, but are not restricted to skinny water. In fact, Craig has landed fish up to 23 inches on big waters.

We are also excited to announce that we will be holding the Opener in a new location, the American Family Insurance campus just off Highway 151 on the east side of Madison.

There is no smoking allowed anywhere on the grounds, and we will not be able to serve alcoholic beverages. But these drawbacks are made up for by the fact that the good people at American Family make their facilities free to the community's non profit organizations.

The spacious rooms will also allow us to increase the number of tiers and vendors that we can accommodate.

Plan on joining us for another great event.



Winter weather possible cause of fish kill on Black Earth Creek

by the Wisconsin DNR

CROSS PLAINS, Wis. - Fishery biologists doing routine population monitoring work on Black Earth Creek downstream of Cross Plains have documented a drop in fish populations from South Valley Road downstream about 0.8 miles. On-stream reports from early season trout anglers support this observation.

"We can't say with any certainty what the cause of the drop might be," said Scot Stewart, the Department of Natural Resources district fishery supervisor. "There are several possibilities including the very cold winter, an unknown runoff event of some kind or even last year's floods which greatly reduced the size of the 2013 year-class of fish in the creek. We simply don't have any solid evidence that points to any one clear cause.

"The good news is that this creek has high quality trout habitat, is very productive, and will recover naturally in two to three years. We can say this with confi-

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dence because we've experienced fish kills here before and the creek has recovered nicely within the two to three year timeframe."

Even some of the possible causes are somewhat lacking in probability say fishery experts. A sustained and very cold winter would make a runoff event less likely and there is no record of any such event taking place. A single reduced year class alone would not completely explain the preliminary estimate of a 70 percent drop in fish population in this stretch of stream.

"Winter is a stressful time of year for trout in streams, and this past winter was colder and longer than what we typically experience," said Matt Mitro, a DNR cold-water fish research scientist. "Our monitoring of water temperatures in nearby streams showed near-freezing temperatures

from early December through March in areas of streams away from springs. Trout streams are usually not that cold for that length of time."

Biologists have already taken steps to ease the impact to the popular stream fishery by stocking 300 surplus wild brown trout from brood stock and additional rainbow trout into the affected stretch of stream.

Biologists will continue routine seasonal population monitoring in the area but will add some additional summertime monitoring as current work schedules allow.

"We've worked to build populations in this outstanding stream but something has happened," adds Stewart, "we don't know what, but we've taken action to soften the impact to anglers and we expect the stream to fully recover as it has done in the past."

CLASSIC ROD FOR SALE

H.L. Leonard Duracane Fly Rod

Model: 750 A-2 7 foot, 3 weight with two tips

Serial Number: 1926 (Designated on butt and both tips)

The rod and tips are straight

Desirable forest green wraps

Sharpe of Aberdeen blank built by H.L. Leonard in 1972

Built for the Willow River Trout Shop, Hudson, WI 1970's

Very good condition

All original in cloth case and aluminum tube with brass fixtures

\$900, price is firm

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The Badger Fly Fishers Newsletter is published monthly. Articles, photos, information, and calendar events for the newsletter are encouraged and should be submitted by the 1st day of the month of issue to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St., Madison WI 53711. If possible, Word files sent to: johnson7@tds.net are most appreciated.

Next Meeting:

BFF Club Picnic

at Dane County [Donald Park](#)



As usual the club will provide a picnic lunch and soft drinks.

More details will be coming next month and on our website.

Events Calendar

August 2nd **BFF Picnic** Donald Park

The Badger Fly Fishers' meetings are normally held on the fourth Monday of each month. **Wisconsin Small-mouth Alliance** meets on the third Tuesday. Both groups meet at the Mapletree Restaurant on Highway 51, in McFarland, Wisconsin.

Programs begin at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. Visitors and guests are always welcome.