

# Badger Fly Fishers

*An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers*



Newsletter

July 2014

## New Field Guide to Wisconsin Streams

*A comprehensive guide to stream plants, fishes, insects, frogs and reptiles*

By the Wisconsin DNR

MADISON - Wisconsin has more than 80,000 miles of streams and now there's a comprehensive, photo-packed guide unlocking the secrets of the plants, fishes, insects, frogs and reptiles that call them home.

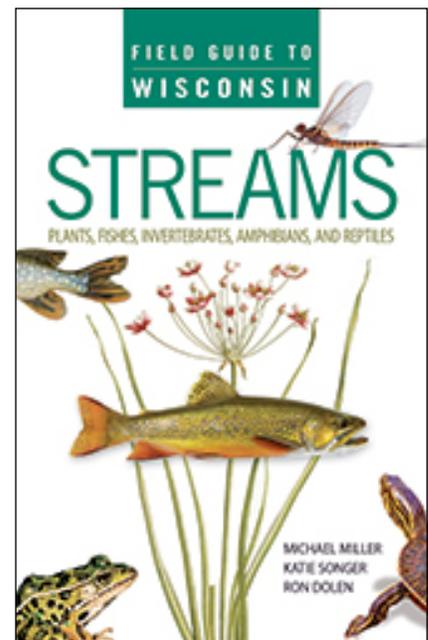
The field guide was co-authored and edited by a trio of state stream scientists and is [available at a discount through the publisher, the University of Wisconsin Press](#) (exit DNR). The soft-cover book is priced to cover the production cost, and neither the Department of Natural Resources nor the DNR authors receive any revenues from its sale.

"The long-awaited Field Guide to Wisconsin Streams represents a major achievement, drawing on the knowledge of more than 150 contributors from within the DNR as well as external partners and institutions," says Susan Sylvester, a longtime DNR water manager and head of DNR's water quality program.

"They have produced a field guide originally intended to help our biologists and others who manage streams, but it's beautifully illustrated and easy to use and will be a great companion for anyone who explores and cares about Wisconsin's streams."

Mike Miller, the lead author from DNR, is a Wisconsin native who has been fascinated by streams since he was about 8 years old, spending much of his free time playing in and along a small stream flowing by his house in Plymouth. He is an avid fly fisher but spends more time in boots taking various groups stream side to teach about stream ecology and the importance of healthy watersheds.

"I just finished the semester teaching UW graduate students about watershed ecology, last weekend was out with 15 Brownies, and will be out with dozens if not hundreds of students of all ages over the summer and fall, discussing the importance of pro-



tecting Wisconsin's water resources" he says.

Miller says the impetus for the field guide was that about six years ago he hired a field crew to do stream surveys across the state and the person doing the fish identification work was using a field guide for eastern states which didn't have many of Wisconsin's fish species.

"I asked him to use a different key and yet I kept seeing occasional photographs of the field crew working and this crew member was still using the one field guide," he says. "So what started out as an internal document to

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help DNR staff better identify fish and aquatic insects, grew into a more extensive guide. We approached UW Press seeking permission to use some of their copyrighted fish illustrations for use in the guide and they thought the guide would be a worthy effort and offered to publish it as a book."

The other primary co-authors and editors are Katie Songer, an environmental scientist, and educator who has worked with DNR and Ron Dolen, an environmental scientist who has worked on watershed studies and trained citizen volunteer stream monitors at DNR. Songer and Dolen put in countless hours contacting illustrators, photographers, and contributors, researching and drafting entries, and working through painstaking details of design, layout, and review to bring the project to fruition.

More than 1,200 images illustrate the species in the field guide, and there are descriptions of the species, lookalikes, and distribution maps.

The guide identifies:

More than 130 common plants  
All 120 fish species known to live in Wisconsin streams  
Eight crayfishes  
50 mussels  
10 amphibians  
17 reptiles  
70 families of insects.

"My hope is the field guide will be of value to all who are interested in learning more about Wisconsin's aquatic resources. The more we know about streams, what lives in them, and how they are impacted by human activities, the more likely we are to value and wisely manage these natural resources" Miller said.

## 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*

**CONTACT TOM ANDERSEN, (715) 426-2278**

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](mailto:johnson7@tds.net) are most appreciated.



*Club member Bill Engber sent us this picture of a fresh Chinook from the Ayakulik River in Kodiak.*

## **SPRING OPENER 2015**

Mark the date on your calendars: Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 2015. 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. More recently, Craig began fishing these rods 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.

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> BFF Picnic Donald Park

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**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.