

Badger Fly Fishers

An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers



Newsletter

August 2014

Badger Fly Fishers Summer Picnic

The Annual Badger Fly Fishers Summer Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 2nd at Donald Park near Mt. Vernon, WI. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. with lunch served at 12:30 p.m.

There will be a casting challenge course set up as well as casting instruction, so bring your fly rods for a day of fun and challenge.

Mt. Vernon Creek runs adjacent to the park area, so you will also have an opportunity to fish.

Directions to [Donald Park](#):

From Madison take Verona Rd., Hwy 18/151, west past Verona to County Hwy G south to Mt. Vernon. Turn right, northwest, on Hwy 92 out of Mt. Vernon and travel 1¼ mile to Donald Park on left, and clearly marked with a sign.

Follow the path from the parking lot about 75 yards to a shelter with our BFF banner.

Brats and burgers along with salad and baked beans will be served at 12:30pm. We will have some beverages available, but consider bringing your beverage of choice.

Wild Parsnip: A Weed You Need To Avoid

Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) a non-native weed, has become an all too common plant along roadsides, ditch banks and trout streams, where it has become a dominant weed.

Wild parsnip is recognized by its bright yellow flowers borne on umbrella-like clusters at the top of the plant. The plant has a two year life cycle, forming a short spindly rosette of leaves the first year.

In the second year the plant resumes growth, producing 5-15 pinnately compound leaves on a large grooved stem that can be 2-5 feet in height topped with the yellow flower clusters.

This a plant to avoid since even brushing against the leaves, stems and flowers exposes your skin to plant sap containing toxins (furocoumarins) that are absorbed by the skin and activated by sunlight.

The toxin is most abundant and active when the plant is flowering, but can be present at other times as well. Within 24-48 hours after exposure, symptoms develop resembling sunburn with mild exposure, to large blisters after severe exposure.

Blistered areas can sometimes take weeks to heal. Injured areas are often dark red or brown

due to a hyper-pigmentation that can last as long as two years. Fair-skinned people may be more sensitive to even tiny amounts of the toxin.

If you are exposed to plant contact, especially broken stems, leaves and flowers, wash the exposed area as soon as possible with soap and water.

Avoid walking through areas with abundant wild parsnip and protect yourself by wearing gloves, long pants or waders, and a long sleeved shirt or jacket.



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Putting Backing on a Fly Reel

by Steve Winters

I have been putting backing on fly reels for a long time now, but it is just the last decade or so that I have been doing it right.

When you tie string to smooth steel arbors it is entirely possible that the string will rotate on that arbor if torque is applied. If that happens, you have absolutely no drag, and turning the reel handle won't change the situation at all. Take it from me, it's a very helpless feeling when a big fish is what supplied the torque to begin the process.



If you wrap the reel spool with a sheet of latex before attaching the backing, it dramatically reduces the chances that the backing will ever rotate on the arbor. Latex strips are what nurses use on your arm when taking blood samples. Simply wrap the strip around the reel arbor so that it overlaps, and then super glue the strip to itself at the area of overlap.

The same method works on bait

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:

**Saturday
August 2nd**

BFF Club Picnic at Dane County [Donald Park](#)

Events Calendar

August 2nd **BFF Picnic Donald Park**

September 22nd **BFF Monthly Meeting**
Mike Miller - Stream Ecology

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.

SPRING OPENER 2015

Mark the date on your calendars: Saturday, February 14th 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.