

Badger Fly Fishers

An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Newsletter

October 2014

Salmon star at DNR open house events

by Wisconsin DNR

MADISON - Chinook salmon will star at upcoming open house where visitors will get a front-row view of the annual spawning spectacle during which thousands of fish make their way up key rivers and streams along the Lake Michigan shore. The events are free and open to the public and include food and beverages for sale as well as guided facility tours and activities geared to youth.

The open house events at the C.D. "Buzz" Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility on Oct. 4 and Root River Steelhead Facility on Oct. 11 highlight efforts by Department of Natural Resources biologists to give Mother Nature an assist through the collection of eggs and milt to produce the next generation of fish for Lake Michigan stocking.

The vast majority of fish populations in Wisconsin are naturally self-sustaining, but Lake Michigan chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout are not. The Pacific coast fish are not native to Wisconsin, but were stocked in the late 1960s to con-

trol alewives, an exotic species whose populations were exploding because sea lampreys had killed off their main predators.

With the chinook often running 20 pounds or more, the process of egg and milt collection is no easy task. But for anglers and other salmon lovers, it's well worth the effort. The salmon are a mainstay of the Lake Michigan sport fishery and a delicious source of healthy omega-3 fatty acids.

"There's a reason chinook are known as king salmon and in Lake Michigan, they're at the top of the food chain, said Brad Eggold, Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor. "Through our rearing and stocking programs, we're making a strong fishery even better."

Mike Baumgartner, who supervises the Besadny facility in Kewaunee, said he anticipates visitors will be treated to a strong run of fish this year.

"Chinook populations remain strong and with the recent rain, we're expecting to see a lot of activity," Baumgartner said.

In addition to egg collection demonstrations, expert anglers also will be on hand to provide insights into Lake Michigan fishing, casting techniques and knot tying. The Besadny open house features an opportunity to adopt tagged fingerling stur-

geon and participate in the river release of these young fish.

The [Oct. 4 event](#) at the [Besadny facility](#) in Kewaunee runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The facility, on the Kewaunee River, was built in 1989-1990 and collects eggs from chinook and coho salmon as well as brown and steelhead or rainbow trout for rearing in a series of ponds. A processing building featuring a lobby with displays and a public viewing window was completed in 1996.

The [Oct. 11 event](#) at the [Root River facility](#) in Racine also runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The facility was built in 1992-1993 along the Root River by the DNR in partnership with the Salmon Unlimited fishing club. The hatchery serves as Wisconsin's primary source of steelhead eggs and brood (parent) stock and plays an important role in the collection of biological data relating to overall fish health, growth rates, migration patterns and other important information.



It's not done like this anymore.

President
Bob Harrison
(608) 233-7480
twoperfectdogs@yahoo.com
Vice President
Gene Knutson
(608) 238-1674
bjknuts1@facstaff.wisc.edu
Treasurer
Mike Phillips
(608) 873-4521
phillips7550@sbcglobal.net
Secretary
Lynn Langenfeld
lynn.langenfeld52@gmail.com
Board Member
Walt Stevenson
(608) 231-3163
wrs@plantpath.wisc.edu
Board Member
Bill Engber
(608) 238-4374
engber@orthorehab.wisc.edu
Board Member
Tom Smith
(608) 204-9903
t.e.smith@charter.net
Board Member
Dan Johnson
(608) 233-6518
johnson7@tds.net
Board Member
Michael Rock
mrock@ingleliving.com



Club member Bill Engber sent us a trio of photos from a recent Alaska trip.

Nice fish, Bill. Must be some kind of a grand slam, somewhere!



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:

Monday
October 27th

Rich Osthoff, “Trout in the Driftless Area”

Rich Osthoff is the author of three fly-fishing books: *Active Nymphing*, *No Hatch To Match*, and *Fly-Fishing The Rocky Mountain Backcountry*.

Rich has also written on fly-fishing and fly-tying for many magazines, including *Outdoor Life*, *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*, *American Angler*, *Fly Tyer*, and *Midwest Flyfishing*.

He guides for trout on his home waters of western Wisconsin. He also markets his innovative trout, steelhead, and warmwater flies directly to fly fishers throughout the country via his mail-order fly catalog.

The scenic, unglaciated valleys of southwestern Wisconsin harbor dozens of cold, fertile spring creeks. These are his home waters. Habitat improvements and introductions of wild-strain fish are increasing the amount of productive water.

Native brook trout are rebounding in a number of streams. Dozens of streams hold wild (naturally



reproducing) brown trout. The fishing for adult browns in the 11- to 14-inch class is exceptional. Browns of 17-inches and larger are present and can be targeted with special strategies.

Events Calendar

October 21st **WSA Monthly Meeting**

Heath Benike “Smallmouth Rivers of Western Wisconsin”

October 27th **BFF Monthly Meeting**

Rich Osthoff - “Trout in the Driftless Area”

November 24th **BFF Monthly Meeting**

Matt Wagner - “The Elk River in British Columbia”

The Badger Fly Fishers’ meetings are normally held on the fourth Monday of each month. **The Wisconsin Smallmouth 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.