

# Badger Fly Fishers



Newsletter

August 2015

## Trout fishing a fall treat for anglers

By Wisconsin DNR

Fall colors, fishing fun, and good prospects for some fast action and some really big fish are on tap in coming weeks as trout begin their spawning runs, say state fisheries biologists, supervisors and technicians who work to improve fishing for the wily trout.

“For me September is the best month for Wisconsin trout fishing,” says Pete Segerson, the Black River Falls-based Department of Natural Resources fisheries supervisor whose crews carry out trout habitat improvement projects. “Crops are ripening, late summer-early fall colors have started to show and birds are staging and migrating.”

The trout fishing season is open on inland waters through the end of September. Fishing for trout and salmon species - with the exception of lake trout, which closes Oct. 31 -- is open year-round on Lake Michigan streams. Fishing for trout and salmon on Lake Superior streams closes Sept. 30, unless listed in specific waters listed by county in the [Trout Fishing Regulations](#).

On inland waters, brown trout will soon begin upstream movements into smaller tributary streams to seek spawning habitat, so there’s an opportunity to catch trophy fish that have spent the summer hiding in deep-water pools and under logjams and are now congregating in smaller tributary streams, says Mike Miller, a DNR stream ecologist and avid trout angler.

Most of the insect hatches are winding down but anglers may still see blue-winged olives appear on overcast, drizzly days, and grasshoppers, crickets, and ants still getting blown into creeks on warm windy days, he says.

“Fishing fly patterns that look and move like crayfish, on the bottom in the deeper, dark water, is a good way to increase the likelihood of hooking a large brown trout,” Miller says.

Shawn Sullivan, also a fisheries supervisor of crews Waushara/Marquette/Waupaca counties, says that those who fish with a spincasting rod to fish will want to try medium to large bait fish imitation. Rapalas, spinners or streamers. Gold and silver bodied baitfish imitations are productive. Fly anglers should try hoppers during this time as well.



“Some of the nicest trout of the season will rise to a hopper on a sunny fall day,” he says.

He notes that central sand streams tend to run low and clear in the fall, increase fishes’ wariness. “Fishing during overcast or raining days will help. Fishing very early or at dusk into dark is also productive. Fishing just before the season closes can be very rewarding. These migratory browns can be very aggressive. Anglers should cover lots of water looking for active fish.”

Sullivan lists the following streams as having great fishing access and healthy populations of fish: the Waupaca, Willow, White, Pine and Mekan rivers.

Jon Hansen, a Madison-based DNR fisheries biologist, took his brother fishing on a Richland County stream a few days before his brother got married.

“We each caught about 10 fish in about 2.5 hours in about 90 degree heat,” he says.

“Fishing hoppers in these Driftless Area streams right now is easy, fun, and effective, especially if you have a small nymph tied to the hopper as a dropper fly. Pink squirrels and bead head prince nymphs work quite well as the dropper fly.”

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*Bill Engber with a stringer of bright sockeye salmon taken during a Kodiak, Alaska trip earlier this summer. The four people, who contributed to this day's take, ate fish on the trip and each of them brought some home as well.*

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.

# Spring 2016

## FLY FISHING OPENER



Special Thanks: Dave Whitlock, Illustration

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016



SPONSORED BY THE BADGER FLY FISHERS,  
MADISON, WI • [www.badgerflyfishers.com](http://www.badgerflyfishers.com)

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. plus evening banquet



#### ATTRACTIONS

- Commercial exhibits of the latest and finest in fly fishing equipment
- Raffles, and lively auction
- Fly tying demonstrations

#### LOCATION

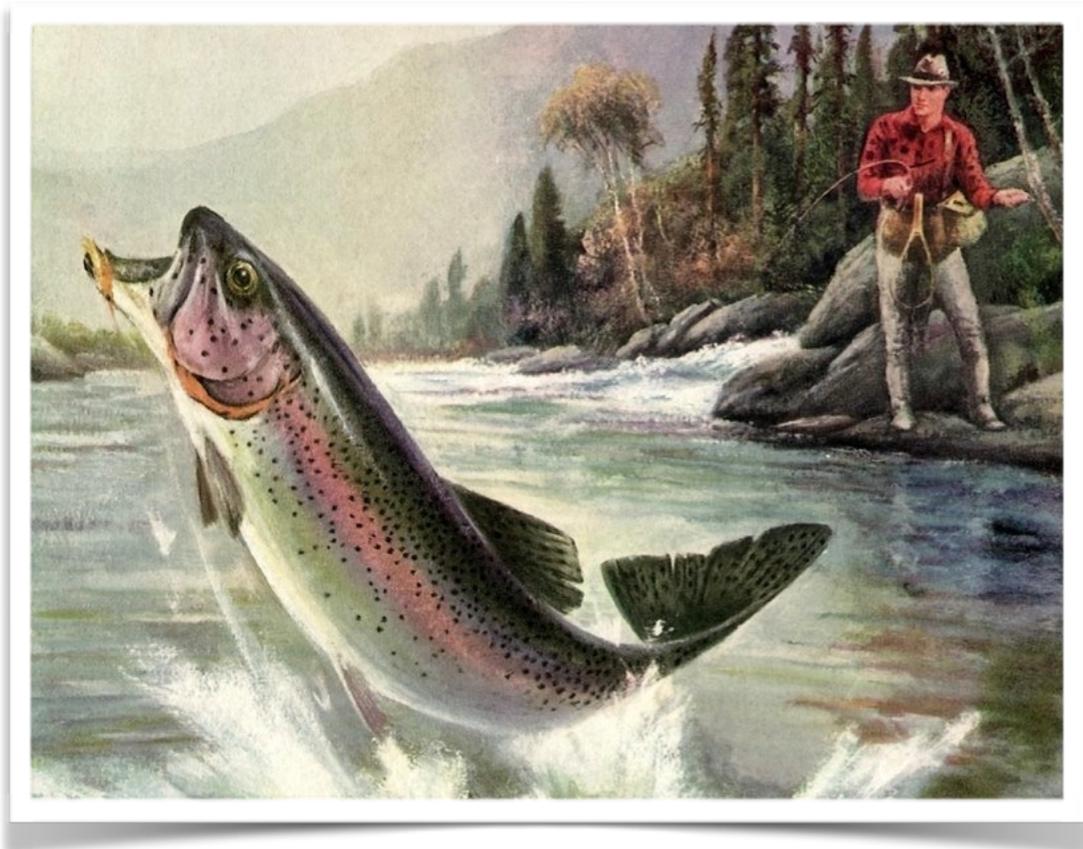
American Family Insurance  
Training Center Bldg. A  
6000 American Parkway  
Madison, WI

Use Surface Parking Lots  
1 or 2

#### FEATURED SPEAKER

**Gary Borger** – Noted fly fishing expert and author

# Next Meeting: September



## Events Calendar

September 15<sup>th</sup> **WSA monthly meeting**  
Ron Barefield  
Fishing the Mississippi

October 20<sup>th</sup> **WSA monthly meeting**  
Ted Peck - Fall fishing  
on the Mississippi

September 28<sup>th</sup> **BFF monthly meeting**  
Brian Ramsey  
Paradise Valley Trout

**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.