

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

A Different Lake For Every Day

BY GARY HOWEY AND KELLA RODIEK
Hartington, Neb.

If you were to ask about the Webster area, you'd likely hear about the extraordinary fishing in the hundreds of lakes and sloughs found throughout that part of South Dakota.

The glaciers that moved through the area over ten thousand years ago gouged out the craters that form these bodies of water. The more recent floods then filled the depressions and up popped fishing paradise.

Many of these lakes are shallow, ranging from only eight to ten feet in depth, yet most still hold catchable populations of walleye, perch, smallmouth bass, northern pike and crappie.

We've fished the area on both open and hard water numerous times over the years with one of our Team Outdoorsmen Adventures members, Cory Ewing of Waubay Lake Guide Service (waubaylakeguideservice.com). Every outing with Cory has been successful, keeping us coming back for more.

He's a superior angler and guides on many of the lakes found throughout northeastern South Dakota.

Accompanying me on this trip was Outdoorsmen Productions Wayne State College intern Kella Rodiek, an excellent angler from Mitchell.

Cory had a plan, as he usually does, informing us we'd be fishing a "slough" north of Webster. Upon arriving, the so-called slough looked nothing like the sloughs back home, considering the size, with the quality of the fishing in the area, size really doesn't matter.

From the grass and gravel of the bank, we launched the sole vessel the lake would see all day. There's

something to be said about being the only boat on the water, when it's just you and your comrades and the fish below the surface.

The water of the lake was crystal-clear, making it a Mecca for weed growth. The entire shoreline out to ten feet was covered up with weeds, making us to wonder just what the plan might be in order for us to fish there. We identified an abundance of coontail and milfoil, and the dense colonies looked as if they could be tricky to overcome. We'd need the correct presentation to evade the weeds and catch the fish, and fortunately Cory knew the tricks.

Here was the plan. We'd rig up with one ounce bottom bouncers and Lindy single hook spinners, baited with a small piece of crawler or a piece of 7" Breen-Orange Spinner Crawler Berkley Gulp Alive. We'd then troll the rigs through the open water in middle of the lake.

Cory maneuvered the boat at a fast enough speed to allow our bottom bouncers to cruise just over the top of the weeds coming up from the bottom. That seemed to be the ticket and we maintained that technique all afternoon.

Our first fish, a chunky walleye, came when Cory made a turn out in the middle of the lake, which increased the speed of our outside lure. This indicated the fish were more aggressive and were looking for a bait trolled at a higher speed.

Frequent taps on the end of our lines revealed an abundant population of the walleye's smaller cousin, the perch, in the lake. Perch are famous for keeping at a bait until they've sucked the hook clean, forcing us to use the tougher Gulp Alive to keep from being robbed. In the clear water, the flashy orange color of the Gulp was irresistible to the walleye, which the slough seemed to be rich with.

It didn't take long for us to film an entire show and reach our eight-fish walleye limit. The walleye we kept measured from 17 to 21 inches and were accompanied by several good-sized perch.

Day two was a change of scenery as we headed towards Garden City, south of Webster to fish Dry Lake



PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES
Columnist Gary Howey, left, and Kella Rodiek are pictured with two walleyes they caught while fishing in the Webster area with Waubay Lakes Guide Cory Ewing.

(one of several in the area with that name). This time we weren't alone on the water.

The trucks lined up bumper-to-bumper (well, bumper to boat trailer really,) ready to launch and leave the land behind. There were anglers from Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa and North Dakota, all with the same walleye mindset.

Good friend Casey Weismantel of Aberdeen joined us on day two, fishing near us while manning our camera boat to supplement the show with a different viewpoint than usual.

Like the slough we fished the previous day, this body of water ran that same eight to ten feet in depth.

However, the water of this lake was a dingy brown color compared to the glass-like clarity of the slough.

As he did the day before, Cory crafted a strategy based on successful experiences. This time we'd be pulling crankbaits on Fireline using line-counter reels on long eight and a half foot rods.

Cory had us speed trolling at three to three and a half mph, pulling Lindy Shadlings and jointed Rapalas, and short lining with just 30 to 40 feet of line out behind the boat.

Since the bite was slower than the previous day, we and the other boats around us covered a lot of water, looking for the fish and some

sort of pattern we could work.

Just when things seemed the slowest and we'd begun doubting our plan, a pattern appeared as the purple descent jointed Rapala came to life, with Kella pounding the fish one right after another.

The walleye's main sense of sight wasn't as affective in the dingy water as it would be in less turbid conditions. Instead, they seemed to be zeroing in on the extra vibration given off by the jointed lure.

After Kella put fish in the boat and we figured out the pattern of what the fish wanted, we re-rigged with the hot bait to get back in the action and our eight-fish limit came quickly.

In a short day and a half, we'd spent some quality time with good friends, taken our two-day limit of walleyes and a few perch and had two of our Outdoorsmen Adventures segments in the can.

Topping it all off, we had the opportunity to return home and spend time at one of South Dakota's most beautiful destinations.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. Howey is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, which can be seen in Yankton the series airs on channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program Monday-Saturday at 6:45 am on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you're looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com and like Outdoorsmen Adventures on Facebook.

Kella Rodiek, Mitchell, is a senior at Wayne State College and is working as an intern at Outdoorsmen Productions LLC, Hartington, NE, and is an avid angler and hunter Kella served as the editor of the Wayne Stater this last year. She's Co-Hosted several Outdoorsmen Adventures television show with her Camo Kella column appearing in the Wayne States College newspaper, the Wayne Stater.

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Step Outside Youth Activity Day Aug. 24

SCOTLAND — The South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department will hold a Step Outside Free Youth Activity Day on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Scotland Tramp Range. The range is located east of Scotland near the ball fields.

Youth ages 8 and up must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Activities include archery, trap shooting, BB gun, fishing and trapping.

For more information, contact Wildlife Conservation Officer Todd Crownover at 605-589-3227.

Make Plans To Attend Special Events In South Dakota State Parks

PIERRE — South Dakota state parks will hold special events on Saturday, Aug. 17. The activities are a great way to spend a summer day. Make plans to attend the following events:

- Nature Hike, 9 a.m. CDT, Good Earth State Park at Blood Run near Sioux Falls.

- Join the park naturalist on a nature hike through the new Good Earth State Park which is within the Blood Run National Historic Landmark. The area is significant for its history as a settlement for thousands of American Indians. This nature walk will be an introduction and exploration of the 13th S.D. State Park and the first in 40 years. Info: 605-987-2263 or newtonhills@state.sd.us, pre-registration: 605-362-2777 or www.outdoorcampus.org

- Disco Disc Golf Tournament, 9 a.m. CDT, Big Sioux Recreation Area near Brandon. Disc golf teams will compete for the top prize. All levels are welcome! Teams can begin registering at 9 a.m. Info: 605-582-7243

- Sand Volleyball Fun, 10 a.m. CDT, Lake Poinsett Recreation Area near Arlington. Hit the beach for a game of sand volleyball. Info: 605-983-5085

- Incredible Insects, 1 p.m. CDT, Newton Hills State Park near Canton. Learn about the insects in South Dakota! Info: 605-987-2263

- South Dakota's State Insect, 4 p.m. CDT, Newton Hills State Park near Canton. Learn all about South Dakota's state insect! Info: 605-987-2263

- SD Bat Festival, 6:30 p.m. MDT, Custer State Park. In partnership with the South Dakota Bat Working Group, Custer

Slate Park is hosting the 8th Annual Bat Festival. Several biologists will be on-hand with activities and presentations to help visitors understand and appreciate the myths and facts associated with bats. Info: 605-255-4464 or www.sdbwg.org

- Constellation Stories, 9:30 p.m. CDT, Good Earth State Park at Blood Run near Sioux Falls. Learn constellation stories from cultures around the world while looking at the Good Earth night sky through a telescope. Bring good walking shoes and bug repellent. Info: 605-987-2263

The programs are open to all ages. There is no charge to participate in the events; however, a park entrance license is required to enter the parks.

For more information on activities in South Dakota state parks, visit www.gfp.sd.gov, contact the individual park office or call 605-773-3391.

4,020 Licenses For ND

Fall Turkey Hunt

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's Game and Fish Department is making 4,020 hunting licenses available for the fall wild turkey season, 125 fewer than last year.

The slight decrease is a result of four years of poor turkey production, according to Stan Kohn, the department's upland game management supervisor.

"The decrease in the number of licenses is consistent with our management strategy of reducing licenses when the population warrants protection or when turkey numbers have fallen below normal levels within a unit," he said.

Hunting Unit 21 in Hettinger and Adams counties and Unit 53 in Divide and Williams counties will remain closed to hunting this year because of low turkey numbers.

This year's season will include special bow hunts in Bismarck and Fargo to reduce turkey numbers in those cities, along with experimental hunting at the federal Northern Great Plains Research Lab near Mandan and experimental bow hunting on state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation land south of Bismarck.

Online and paper license applications will be available in mid-August. The deadline for hunters to apply is Sept. 4. Only resident hunters can apply for the first license lottery. Nonresidents can apply for any licenses that are available after the initial lottery.

The season begins Oct. 12 and runs through next Jan. 5.

SDGA

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lead after each shot 72s.

Leland, an Augustana College golfer, teamed with Kali Trautman of Clear Lake to win the SDGA Two-Woman Championship a week ago in Dell Rapids.

Jordan Rearick of Omaha, Neb., a USD golfer, ranks third at 75. Brookings' Dani Selberg, a Minnesota State-Mankato golfer, and Pierre's Hallie Getz, a SDSU recruit, are tied at 76.

Janice Baumberg of Lincoln, Neb., also a USD golfer, shot 77.

Arena

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share the vision and the schematics, but we've been having conversations one on one."

Those meetings with potential donors resulted two weeks ago in a \$1 million anonymous gift toward the arena project, Herbster said.

"It's been an extremely

Fox Run Looking Good

Last year's drought left Fox Run Golf Course in tough shape. But a year later, it's hard to see the effects, according to Merry.

"Fox Run is in as good a condition as I've seen it," he said. "They've done a wonderful job. A lot of players have commented on how nice it is. "That's what you want for a state championship."

Family Tee Times

There are two sets of sisters in the 30-golfer field this weekend, and each set of sisters will be in the same threesome in today's (Saturday) second round.

Natalie and Meredith Turner will be in the 10:20 a.m. group. Natalie, a Brandon Valley graduate, has transferred from Dakota Wesleyan to the University of Sioux Falls. Meredith played at O-Gorman last spring.

Morgan and Lauren Fitts of Brookings will be in the 11:10 a.m. group. Morgan just finished her senior season at SDSU, while Lauren currently golfs at DWU.

Tee times begin at 10 a.m., with the lead group of Leland, Cotton and Rearick teeing off at 11:30 a.m.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek

Bison

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about our goals and what we want to accomplish," said linebacker Grant Olson. "The problem is if we start looking ahead to that, and that's when you're going to have an Indiana State or a Youngstown State beat you. As long as we keep that in mind, I think we'll be OK."

Youngstown and the Indiana State own the last two wins over NDSU. Outside of the Valley, NDSU is 14-0 the past two years, including 8-0 in the FCS playoffs.

"We know the expectations this year, and that's not a surprise," Jensen said. "I hope people realize how hard it is to win even one (title). To go back-to-back and to try for three in a row is incredibly hard to do. You have to have the right players and the right coaching staff and if they all buy into it, things can happen."

currently needs, and also allowed space for future expansion, he added.

"You just can't be sure what your needs are going to be in twenty or fifty years," he said. "We're looking at a long-term project; something that will be here for a long time, just like the dome has been."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

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