

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Roughin’ It On The ‘Mo

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

Bowfishing is quickly becoming a popular sport. In years past, you might not see another boat after rough fish with archery gear.

Not so now days as any day during the summer, you can below Gavin’s Point Dam and see several boats as well as people on the wall bowfishing for rough fish.

A week ago, Team members Larry Myhre and I met up with Team member Marlyn Wiebelhaus of Wynot, Neb., to do some heavy-duty bowfishing. Marlyn knows the river and knows bowfishing, spending most days during the spring and summer on the river and because of all the hours he puts in, has held 17 bowfishing records, in both South Dakota and Nebraska.

Our day of roughing it, shooting rough fish, started on the point between the fast water and the gates. The fish, especially the Gar were so thick, you couldn’t shoot without hitting one.

Our goal was to not only shoot some Gar, but to get into some of the invasive species such as the Bighead and Silver Carp. These rough fish have moved up the Missouri River and it’s contributors, creating problems as they compete with Paddlefish and other more desirable species of fish.

Marlyn was the first to connect, which was no surprise, as he very seldom misses a fish he’s shooting at, sticking a big Buffalo. Then it was my turn when a big Carp came by. Shortly there after, Larry connected with another nice fish.

The fish were so thick on the point, at times, even thought we were in shallow water, we were unable to see the bottom.

When bowfishing along the fast water, you needed to identify the fish before pulling the trigger as it wasn’t uncommon for Paddlefish and other game fish to swim through the massive school of fish.

After shooting a hundred pounds of rough fish, Marlyn decided to give the spillway a shot, as schools of Bighead Carp were



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE
Marlyn Wiebelhaus of Wynot, Neb., is pictured with one of the Buffalo taken while bowfishing below Gavins Point Dam in Yankton.

starting to come up and feed on the surface.

Bigheads are extremely spooky, which meant we’d need to move up to them with our trolling motor, shutting it off and then gliding into shooting range. You never know how big these fish are as all that can be seen as the fish cruise just under the surface is the white of their mouths and once you poke one, these powerful fish, no matter how big or small, will give you one heck of a battle.

Marlyn spotted a group off to our right and glided within shooting distance, took the shot, hitting the fish solidly, and as it tried to dive deep, it about ripped the bow out of his hand when it made a

mad dash around and under the boat.

When the fish was finally pulled up into the boat, we could see just how big the fish was, a 25 pounder.

We continued shooting into mid afternoon, ending up shooting 48 rough fish weighing in just under, 300 pounds which included, Carp, Buffalo, Bigheads, short and long nose Gar.

Most rough fish are bonier than game fish; but their white flaky flesh makes excellent eating. When scored, which is a method where cuts are made about an inch apart down through the fish, allowing the heat when the fish is being fried to get into the area where the

small bones are, dissolving many of them.

Fresh Carp and Buffalo, especially Buffalo are excellent eating when prepared properly, with many of the fish fries along the river serving them on their menus.

When it comes to bowfishing gear, any bow will work, but we’ve found that recurve bows, which doesn’t need to be pulled to full draw, allow for quicker shots.

Heavy-duty reels, heavy line and fiberglass fish arrows round out the gear used when bowfishing.

The Nebraska bowfishing season for rough fish is open year round; 24 hours a day with no limit, while the game fish season opens up July 1st and runs through December 31st sunrise to sunset with limits the same as with hook and line.

The special Nebraska Paddlefish season opens for 30 days beginning the 2nd Saturday in July. A fishing permit is required when bowfishing in Nebraska.

In South Dakota, the rough fish season is open April 1st through August 31st and bow fishermen will need a state fishing permit. The game fish season on the Missouri River in the border waters between South Dakota and Nebraska opens July 1st through Nov. 30th. To take game fish with archery equipment in South Dakota you’ll need to purchase a Game Fish Spearing and Archery Permit.

In South Dakota, the special archery Paddlefish season is open July 14th through August 12th.

The rules for bowfishing in the rest of South Dakota are available in the 2012 Fishing Handbook and on-line at <http://gfp.sd.gov/>.

Roughing it, going after rough fish or game fish with a bow is a great sport; helps you to get in some good practice, to knock down the invasive species and to bring home a good mess of fish for your fish fry.

For more information on bowfishing and bow hunting with Wiebelhaus Guide Service, you can contact Marlyn at 402-357-2389.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the President of Outdoorsmen Productions, Producer/Host of the Outdoorsmen Adventures television series and the Co-Host of the Outdoor Adventures radio program. For more information on the great outdoors go to www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

OUTDOORS DIGEST

SD Panel Cuts Number Of East River Deer Licenses

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has decided to cut the number of East River deer hunting licenses this year.

The commission voted Monday to issue licenses allowing a total of 58,585 deer to be shot east of the Missouri River this fall. That’s a reduction of 16,360 tags from last year, with most of the reduction due to fewer three-tag licenses being sold.

The East River deer season will run from Nov. 17 through Dec. 2.

From Dec. 29 through Jan. 6, the season will reopen for hunters with unfilled antlerless deer and antlerless whitetail deer tags.

HuntSafe Classes Coming To Bon Homme County

HuntSafe Classes will be held in Bon Homme County in the coming weeks.

A class will be held July 26-28 in Scotland in the community room at the southwest corner of the high school. Class times will be 6-9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday (incorporated with Step Outside program). For more information, contact Steve Knakmuhs or Todd Crownover with questions at 605-589-4208.

A HuntSafe class will also be held Aug. 1-3 at the Cavalier Cafe in Tyndall. Class times are 6:30-9 p.m. each night. For more information, contact Ed Mittelz or Todd Crownover at 605-589-4208. Students must attend all three days of classes.

More Cougar Sightings Reported In York County

YORK, Neb. (AP) — Four more mountain lion sightings have been reported in York County, although one has already been debunked.

The York News-Times says a York resident reported seeing a mountain lion go into a cornfield Monday afternoon.

On Monday morning, another sighting was reported west of town along Road G.

Sheriff Dale Radcliff says another report on Monday came from someone who reported seeing a mountain lion about 3 1/2 miles south of Waco on Friday.

None of the sightings has been confirmed.

A fourth Monday report of a mountain lion came from a motorist who reported seeing a mountain lion near Interstate 80. Radcliff said that person was mistaken, because the animal turned out to be a dead dog.

Mountain lions also are called cougars or pumas.

Family Fishing Night At Norfolk’s Skyview Lake

JULY 17

LINCOLN, Neb. — Anglers of all ages are invited to attend Family Fishing Night at Norfolk’s Skyview Lake on July 17 from 6-8 p.m.

Children and novices are welcome, as the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will provide equipment, bait and instruction by staff and volunteers. Just look for the Family Fishing Trailer. Anglers ages 16 and up must have a valid fishing license.

Include birding watching and track identification in the outing for a more complete outdoor experience. Bring a camera and a journal and create some family memories.

Public Meeting To Discuss Trout Regulations

LINCOLN, Neb. — A public informational meeting will be held July 23 at the Lake McConaughy State Recreation Area Visitor Center to discuss a possible change in trout regulations, according to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Game and Parks is considering recommendations to change regulations regarding daily limits of trout on the Sutherland Supply Canal below Lake Ogallala.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. MDT. There will be a presentation on past and current trout management on Lake Ogallala, North Platte River and the Sutherland Supply Canal.

Nearly 10M Walleye Fingerlings Stocked In ND Lakes

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — State and federal wildlife officials have completed stocking nearly 10 million walleye fingerlings in 113 North Dakota lakes, some of the highest amounts ever.

About 8.7 million fingerlings came from the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery and 1.1 million came from the Valley City National Fish Hatchery, said Jerry Weigel, a North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries official.

"This year’s efforts finished in the top five of most waters stocked and most fingerlings stocked," he said.

Notable stockings included 4 million fingerlings in Lake Sakakawea and more than half a million in Stump Lake.



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TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



Brett Sehr (left) of Sioux Falls caught this 2.75-pound walleye and Joey Schnetter of Sioux Falls caught this 33-inch Northern pike during a recent outing below the Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown. (Submitted Photo)

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To all of the people who attended the Chamber Mixer on July 10th. We enjoyed your company and the opportunity to show you around! We would like to thank these staff members at Autumn Winds and Prairie Homes for all their hard work preparing the delicious food served!

We appreciate you!

Carol Vande Kop
Amy Brock
Libby Bischoff
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