

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Cranking Near Webster

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

No doubt, you have heard about the Waubay-Webster areas great fishing, the numerous lakes and sloughs that hold numerous species of fish.

This area would be our destination as we made our way back from filming a catfish show on the Red River.

It would be after noon when Larry Myhre (Sioux City, Iowa) and I arrived in Webster, where we grabbed a quick lunch at Perebooms, and met Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Cory Ewing.

We would be fishing on one of the small lakes (200 acres) in the Webster area. Since it had no boat dock, we would be fish out of Cory's smaller boat.

As Cory was launching the boat, Larry and I looked over the lake, where the wind was blowing hard into the west shoreline. It looked as if that would be a good place to start fishing as there was a lot happening in the waters beating into the shoreline.

When wind blows into a shoreline, the water pounding against the shore, pulls muddy water back out into the lake, creating a mud line. These mud lines cut the suns light penetration, which allows the light sensitive walleye to move shallow to feed.

The wind and wave action creates a food chain as the zooplankton floating in the water pushes across the lake into the wind blown shoreline. Baitfish will follow the zooplankton, its main food source, with the walleyes following them to the area on the windy side of the lake where the baitfish has congregated.

As we pulled away from the shore, I asked Cory what species were in the lake, he indicated there

were walleyes, perch and north-erns found throughout the lakes in this part of the state.

Cory would hold his boat within casting distance of the windblown shoreline as we pounded the water with shallow running Shad Raps

On his second cast, Cory connected with a healthy 3-pounder; it was only a few casts later, when I landed a twin to his.

Larry was having northern problems with the pike gobbling up his bait. When a northern chomps down on a lure, there is a good chance they will cut through your fishing line with their sharp teeth and gill plates and swim away with your lure

He landed the first eight-pound northern, with the second one breaking off, swimming off with his crankbait, after that, he dug into his tackle box and added a light leader to his line, preventing any further mishaps.

On every fourth or fifth cast, one of us had a fish on, which were all good fish in the three pound range.

Cory, who had fished the lake before, knew where the fish hung out and his precision casting was putting his lure right on top of the shallow water walleyes.

When he set the hook on the next fish and the way the rod was twitching, it indicated a big fish, which I scooped up as it came along side the boat. It was a fat 27-inch fish, a seven-pound fish, the largest fish of the trip.

Once Larry had the light leader tied onto his line, he did not lose anymore of his lures and was whipping up on the walleyes, with several fish in the 18 to 20 inch range.

As the bite slowed on the windy side, we motored over to try the adjoining shorelines where vegetation protruded from the water.

Up in front of the boat, Cory was doing his best using the bow mount trolling motor to hold us in position the bow mount trolling motor to fan cast the shoreline.

His lined arched across the water, splashing down between two weeds bed, raising his rod, as he starting to bring the bait back



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Cory Ewing, of Waubay Lake Guides Service, is pictured with one of the big walleyes taken when columnist Gary Howey spent time on the water near Webster.

of being out of the water as it dove into the depths.

I was happy with the way our Shad Raps were doing their job, wondering what else this small lake would show us, as I let my bait rest and start to rise. Two cranks of the reel later, my rod was ripped to the side as a fish engulfed my bait, started to peel line as I desperately fought to control the fish.

It made several runs, taking drag as it ran. Tightening my drag, allowed me to gain on the fish, bringing it towards the boat and as it rose to the surface; Cory netted it and pulled it into the boat.

On the ruler, the fish topped out at twenty-five inches, a fish that would be in the five to six pound class. That afternoon, our crew boat over thirty walleyes all running from eighteen to twenty-seven inches as well as eight northern pike up to eight pounds.

The numerous bodies of water around the Webster-Walleye area hold some monster fish, which are just waiting for you in one of the many lakes found in the Webster-Waubay area. Included in the many fish swimming in these waters include the thirty fish we battled with on this trip as they were released and there for you to catch.

More information on fishing with Cory Ewing, Waubay lakes Guide service can be found on his web site www.waubaylakeguideservice.com or you can give him a call at 605-929-3894.

Gary Howey, of Hartington, Nebraska, is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, seen locally in Channels 2 and 98 at Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. For more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

to the boat, his rod bent violently. Setting the hook, the big fish fought back violently, head shaking as it borrowed its way into the depths. His drag on the reel screamed as the fish pulled line and moved away from the boat. As the fish tire, Cory gained ground bringing the fish alongside the boat where I slid

the net under it.

It was a big fish, twenty-seven inches long, one I guessed to be at least six pounds. After a few pictures Cory gently lowered the fish into the water, worked it back and forth so it would swim away when it was ready. The splash of the big fish's tail indicated it had enough

Fishing With Legendary Guide

BY BRENT FRAZEE
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(Kansas City, Mo.)

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Griz was growling.

Sitting in his boat on the Mississippi River near the Twin Cities, he talked about the way it used to be. And the more he talked, the more worked up he got.

"Years back, this part of the Mississippi was just getting hammered because it was so close to the city," said Dick Grzywinski, better known as the Griz to Minnesota fishermen. "People were catching big walleyes and just letting them go to waste. The water was polluted and they didn't want to eat them. They'd catch stringers of big fish and show them off, then they'd just throw them away."

"It was (garbage). We knew we had to try and stop that."

So Grzywinski, a legendary guide, and Dick Sternberg, another noted Minnesota fisherman, started a campaign to get that stretch of river designated as a catch and release area.

"We have more than 10,000 lakes in Minnesota where people can keep walleyes," the Griz said. "It wasn't going to hurt to have a trophy area where people would have to throw their fish back."

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources apparently agreed. In 1993, the agency established Pool 2 on the Mississippi River, the stretch from St. Paul's Ford Dam to Hastings, as a catch and release area for walleyes. And that laid the foundation for one of the Northwoods' best trophy fisheries.

There are huge walleyes in the stretch where Grzywinski's boat was sitting. Just a few miles from the big city, Minnesota's golden fish lead

a charmed life. They have the habitat, forage and big water they like. And even if they get hooked and make a brief trip into the boat, they're going back.

CPR. Catch, Photo, Release. That's the drill on this section of the famous river. And it has helped create one of the best trophy walleye fisheries in the country.

"In all of Minnesota, you won't find a better place for trophy walleyes," said Grzywinski, who lives in St. Paul. "I caught my biggest walleye ever — 14 pounds, 6 ounces — here. And I've had customers catch walleyes 10, 11, 12 pounds."

"I've fished all across Minnesota, but I only have to go a few miles from my house to have chance at a trophy fish."

The Griz proved it on a recent weekday. He motored to a backwater area off the river and immediately headed to a brushy area where he had found success before. He hooked a minnow to a bright-colored jig head, then dropped the offering straight to the bottom.

"You have to fish vertically," he said. "We always say, 'You drag, you snag.'"

"There's a lot of stuff down there to get hung up on. But when you're fishing vertically, there's less chance of running into trouble."

Grzywinski began lifting and lowering his jig-and-minnow combination, making sure he kept contact with the bottom. When the line suddenly grew heavy, he set the hook and felt the dogged pull of a big walleye.

The fish struggled for a while, taking out line. But the Griz eventually won the fight and led his catch into a landing net.

"That's one of those big ones," he said. "That fish will

go 9, 10 pounds."

He unhooked the walleye and flopped it back into the water, then went back for more.

He and customer Darren Envall found more success, including one walleye that Grzywinski estimated at 7 pounds and another at 5 pounds. An extraordinary day? Not for the Griz. It was just another day at the office for him.

Grzywinski, 73, has been guiding for 43 years, and is one of the Northwoods' most colorful characters.

With his long white beard and his flowing hair, he looks like an ex-member of a biker gang, which is exactly what he is.

"When you're young and goofy, you do some things that you probably shouldn't have," he said. "I lived a wild life at one time. But I got over that."

Even in those wilder days, Grzywinski loved to fish. He was practically brought up in a fishing boat. He still has pictures of the days when his parents would place him a picnic basket and he would sit in the boat while they fished.

He went on to become well-known for his fishing prowess, and word spread. A turning point in his life came when he left his job in a warehouse and set out to be a fishing guide.

His business cards read, "Have Boat, Will Travel." He guided on most of Minnesota's well-known spots, leading customers to everything from walleyes to smallmouth bass to muskies

Among the trophy fish he has caught were a 53-inch muskie, a 47-inch northern pike, a 70-inch sturgeon and a 60-pound flathead catfish.



PHOTOS: T.J.'S MINIMART
ABOVE: Shelly Luchtel recently caught this 24-inch Walleye. LEFT: Dave, left, and Rhea Runge recently caught this group of Walleye.

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Outdoor University July 11
PIERRE — Are you and your family interested in learning a new outdoor activity together? Here's your chance! The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) Outdoor Campus-West in Rapid City will host the Outdoor University on July 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. MDT. Individuals and families can try canoeing, archery, air rifles, fishing, kayaking and fly casting. Attendees can also learn about how GFP manages the natural resources of western South Dakota at hands-on stations. For more information, call 605.394.2310 or visit www.outdoorcampus.org.

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