

## OUTDOORSUPDATE

OF THE OUTDOORS:

## Last Hunt Of Season, First For One

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

Turkey hunting has been in my blood since the early 70's when I first hit the woods in pursuit of the long beards.

Over the years, I've managed to take over eighty birds bagging every species in the U.S. except for the Osceola of Florida. As spring approaches, my excitement builds and as the season begins to draw down, I feel as if something will soon be missing from my life.

This year it was different, as I had tagged all three of my Nebraska birds early in the season, two in northeast Nebraska and one in the southeastern part of the state.



Gary Howey

I'd also had the opportunity to call in a couple of birds for Team member Larry Myhre while we hunted together.

Since I'd tagged all of my birds and there was plenty of time left, I decided to give my cameraman Kyle Nickolite, Yankton, the opportunity to shoot his first bird.

Kyle had been on several turkey hunts with me, but he was always on the other end, running the camera.

His first filming in the field had been a spring turkey hunt where a Tom came in behind him without making a sound, startling both of us.

This is one of those things that will either scare the heck out of you or hook you on turkey hunting for life.

As most turkey hunters do, on our first trip, we headed out long before the sun rose and set up where we thought the birds would be traveling from the roost. Sometimes, turkeys and other wild creatures don't do what "We" think they should do and this was the case on our first hunt.

We'd set up in the dark up against a downed tree with the sun at our back. We were well camouflaged and knew the birds were roosting in adjoining property to the west.

I began my calling as I always do soft and subtle, as a hen in the roost would as she awakens.

No response, only silence, so I called again and after a short pause again, no response.

As the sun rose farther in the eastern sky, I increased the volume of my calls, switching from my Roost'em box call to my slate and my diaphragm call.

Nothing, not a peep and at that point, I was beginning to wonder if the birds had moved their roost.

Just then, Kyle whispered on the ridge. There they were, one Tom, a small Jake and eight hens, not good as no Tom in his right mind would leave eight hens to come to one or two others, no matter how sweet they sounded.

It just wasn't going to be our day to tag Kyle's first bird.

We tried it another early morning, calling in one hen and a Jake that was so



PHOTO: GARY HOWEY

Kyle Nickolite of Yankton poses with the results of his first turkey hunt, taken in N.E. Nebraska.

close that we could have reached out and grabbed him.

Permission had been given by the landowner across the road, so we headed that way, walking into a hen that was being followed by a Tom, unfortunately the hens sharp eyes pegged us before we could get set up.

After two early morning excursions and the close of the season rapidly approaching, I think Kyle was beginning to wonder about turkey hunting.

We decided to give it one more go, an after work hunt in an area we'd seen birds earlier in the year.

As we always had we glassed the area from a hillside prior to heading in to set up.

We spotted one Tom right where we had planned to set up, so a new plan or Plan B had to be quickly thrown together.

The plan would be to drive to the far end of the trees, put a sneak through the trees growing along the south side.

As we headed into the trees, a Tom gobbled off to the west. With Kyle in the lead, we quietly approached the area we'd hoped to set up in.

Once we reached the tree line, I noticed that there was a slight rise about thirty yards in front of us, which didn't give us much time to get on the bird as he popped over the rise.

Since we had no choice, I set the decoy in a low mating position just this side of the rise while Kyle set up our turkey fan off to his right.

Our fan came from one of last year's birds and cut off where it attaches to the body. After dusting the tail section with Borax to help preserve it, it's spread out and nailed to a board until it dries in a natural position.

We'd used fans years ago while hunting in central Missouri and since no one else was allowed to hunt this property, I felt it was safe enough to use the fan.

Note: The use of a fan can be dangerous if others may be hunting the same area, as a mature Tom's fan can draw gunfire from some individuals.

## Captain Norm's Walleye Classic

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

Lewis & Clark Lake was the site of Captain Norm's First Annual Walleye Classic held on Saturday, June 5.

Forty-nine teams from South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa competed in this one-day event.

There would be a 90% payback on the tournament with cash & prizes going ton the top five teams as well as a big fish prize.

In the tournament, each team was allowed to weigh in five fish, with the heaviest weight deciding the winner.

As the boats sped out across the lake at 7 a.m., weather conditions were predicted to be partly sunny with the wind picking up throughout the day.

Teams were spread out across the lake from the dam up into the river, all hoping they'd be able to locate the big fish that would win the tournament for them.

Crankbaits seemed to be what most teams were using with some of the teams along the shorelines and breaks giving livebait a try.

Weather conditions changed throughout the day with a cloudbank and gusty winds moved in about half way through

the tournament, forcing some of the anglers to change their tactics.

Final weigh in was scheduled for 3:00 pm and as the contestants brought their bags to the scale, it appeared that an average weight of 3 pounds per fish would be needed to win this tournament.

The Gause team from Tabor took top honors with five fish weighing 11.55 pounds.

In second place was the team of Chris Happe, Yankton and Brent Barta, Volin with 10.8 pounds.

The third place team of Nathan and Haylie Braaten, Yankton came to the scales with 10.55 pounds.

Curt and Ashley Oliver, Yankton had 10.30 pounds putting them in 4th Place.

Rounding out the winners was the fifth place team of James Wiener and Taylor Portilli, Yankton with 9.7 pounds.

The big fish of the tournament was 5.5-pound fish caught by the Korleski team from Tea and Ireton, Iowa.

Over 100 fish were weighed in during the tournament with eleven of the forty-nine teams having their five fish limit at weigh in.

Plans are to make this an annual event with information on next year's classic to be announced later this year.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A large crowd attended the weigh-in at the Capt. Norm's 1st Annual Walleye Classic held on Lewis &amp; Clark Lake on June 5.

Once again, I started with my Roost'em box call and then went to my slate call, giving the impression that there were two different birds calling.

Once again, no response, which late in the season isn't unusual as the breeding season is coming to the end and there is less talking going on between the Toms and hens.

We'd been on site about five minutes when a red head, no two red heads appeared on the rise as a Tom and Jake walked into full view.

I whispered to Kyle that the mature Tom was in the lead as he brought his shotgun into position.

The big Tom, noticing the hen decoy, turned in that direction and noticing the turkey fan quickly turned to face it and

started moving slowly in it's direction. As I was giving the warning putt to get the Tom to raise its head, Kyle fired, dropping the big bird in its tracks.

Kyle's first bird, weighing 20 plus pounds with a 10" beard is a good bird, especially for the first one.

As I sit here, knowing the season has ended, longing for next spring season, I have many memories from this spring, one stands out and that was where I introduced another to his first turkey hunt during our final hunt of the season.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the President of Outdoorsmen Productions LLC. His award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures can be seen on www.MyOutdoorTV.com.

GFP Using New Tools To Control Canadian Geese  
Flicks, Fun At The Beaver House In Minnesota

BY SAM COOK

(c) 2010, Duluth News Tribune

PIERR — It wasn't so long ago that Canada geese in South Dakota were an uncommon — if not rare — sight. That is no longer the case.

With the influx of water in eastern South Dakota, combined with increasingly effective agricultural practices and goose restoration efforts, Canada geese have made a remarkable comeback in the state. In fact, the impact on crops from a large number of geese in some places is problem.

"There are many areas in eastern South Dakota where farmers are dealing with crop losses due to resident Canada geese," said South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Wildlife Damage Program Administrator Keith Fisk. "We are using several methods to alleviate crop depredation concerns, and we're trying to reduce the resident Canada goose population to an acceptable level for agricultural producers, sportsmen, and the public."

Fisk said GFP can use a Special Canada Goose Permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ease crop losses. That permit work has been completed on 937 nests over 49 locations in eastern South Dakota. GFP has hired 15 interns and seasonal employees and two more permanent employees to help wildlife damage specialists with goose depredation in eastern South Dakota. They will use electric fencing, hazing techniques, food plot contracts and vegetation barriers — such as buffer strips — to help stop or lessen depredation.

The GFP Commission recently approved an August Management Take Canada Goose Season, from Aug. 14-29. The special season allows hunters daily limits of eight Canada geese. GFP officials hope the August season, combined with a potential increased limit of eight geese daily for the early September season and a potential limit increase in the regular goose season, will cut the resident goose population to a more manageable level.

GRAND MARAIS, Minn. — Don't look for Beaver Flicks at Cabela's or Gander Mountain. Don't look for them at most tackle shops.

The only place you'll find these home-made fishing lures is at the Beaver House in Grand Marais, the little shop at the corner of Wyoming and Broadway with the huge walleye growing through the building.

That's where Bill Cronberg, 76, and his son, Tyson, 45, have been selling Beaver Flicks for the past 37 years.

"My brother invented them," Tyson says on a recent weekday in the shop. "But I made 'em famous."

Beaver Flicks are, as Cronberg says, the simplest things. A swivel, an O-ring, a slender willow-leaf blade and a hook. Three for \$2.49, no matter the size. They'll catch any kind of fish, he says.

"I tell people I guarantee them to catch fish in the summertime. I double-guarantee them for ice-fishing," Cronberg says.

Don't bother trying to figure that guarantee out. Like a lot of what you find inside the Beaver House, the guarantee is largely for entertainment purposes. But Cronberg knows Beaver Flicks work. He points to mounted fish around the store that he has caught with various Beaver Flicks. A 10-pound walleye. A 5-pound splake. A brook trout he estimates at 40 pounds.

Cronberg's brother Marty, then 17, came up with the simple lure all those years ago. The name was logical, Cronberg says.

"Beaver, because it's from the Beaver House. And it's a flicker," Cronberg says.

Young Devon Byers, 8, from Ames, Iowa, comes into the shop with his parents, Will and Stephanie Holloway. They're fresh from a trip in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, headed for home.

Cronberg gives Devon a Beaver Flick. "I've been giving them out for 30 years," he says. "I give 'em out because I know I'm going to see your face again."

SHOP HISTORY

Bill Cronberg and the late Guyal Anderson, a noted Cook County fly fisher, opened the Beaver House in 1964. Guyal tied a lot of the shop's flies — and also ran a shoe repair business in the shop. The men also made and sold ice in days before every convenience store had an ice cooler.

Bill bought out Anderson's interest in the store about 30 years ago. Bill Cronberg still makes lots of lures for the shop, although he was unavailable for an interview because of his health the day we visited.

Noted Grand Marais fly-tie Dave Asproth still ties flies for the shop, Tyson said. Of course, the shop also sells a full line of live bait, too.

The giant walleye that seems to protrude through the front of the building is a tourist magnet. Its tail protrudes through the roof. It was created, mostly from fiberglass, by local artist Jim Korf in 1990 and 1991. It takes two years to make a walleye that big.

"It's common to see people taking pictures in front of that building," says Shawn Perich, who publishes "Northern Wilds" magazine in town, "probably because there's a walleye sticking out of it."

Perich likes it. "Of all the walleyes here and there in Minnesota, and that creepy Paul Bunyan on Highway 34, this one has class the others don't," Perich says.

Every inch of the store-front is painted or covered with lettering. Murals cover two sides. Glass bottles found at old dumps fill all the windows on one side, lending the notion that the store has almost nothing to do with fishing. Tyson's folks collected those bottles. They sell, but not as well as Beaver Flicks.

The name "Beaver Flicks" has proven confusing to some would-be customers, Cronberg says. His dad had a sign made that sits out front on the sidewalk. It reads: "The Beaver Flick is a fishing lure."

"My dad had to make that sign," Cronberg says. "He had people wondering if we were a fishing shop or a porn shop."

WIDE SELECTION

Besides Beaver Flicks, the Cronbergs — including Tyson's three children — make lots of other tackle: floating rigs, spin-floats, "Little Joe" spinners, night-crawler harnesses, yarn flies, strip-ons, jigs and more.

Oh, and hookless Beaver Flick earrings in two sizes.

"I tell the women customers I like the glow-in-the-dark color," Cronberg says.

Many of the lures are displayed in the cut-off bottoms of milk cartons, because that's the way Bill Cronberg always did it. The shop is small, and nearly every inch is covered with tackle.

"They do have a surprising selection of tackle there," Perich says. "If I'm looking for something and can't find it, that's where I go."

An aquarium up front demon-

strates a lure's action under water with the ingenious use of an upside-down windshield-wiper mechanism. One Wednesday, a Beaver House Spin-Float went back and forth, back and forth in mesmerizing repetition.

Bill Cronberg's hand-lettered signs are everywhere in the shop. Don't miss the 30-day guarantee:

"We guarantee our fishing equipment will catch fish in 30 days. If not, come back and we'll give you another 30 days."

And if you really like the Beaver House fishing gear, you should check the sign on the ceiling over the lake trout lures: "The entire shop, \$499.361.03"

For which you'd get a lifetime supply of Beaver Flicks. All with that double guarantee for ice-fishing.

## YANKTON AREA RELAY FOR LIFE

**JULY 16-17, 2010 • RIVERSIDE PARK**  
**SURVIVORS' LAP • 6:00 PM**

4:30-5:30 PM Survivor Registration  
5:00-5:30 PM Survivor Celebration/Meal  
5:45 PM Group Survivors Picture

**SURVIVOR REGISTRATION PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION BY JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Month and Year of Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Cancer: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size (circle): YM, YL, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL

\* I am interested in hearing more about patient-related programs/services of the American Cancer Society. Yes/No

\* Please contact me about volunteer opportunities with the American Cancer Society. Yes/No

\* Please send me information about donating to the American Cancer Society. Yes/No

This registration form can be returned to:  
**Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center - Attn. Darla Gullikson**  
1115 W 9th St., Yankton, SD 57078

Survivor Registration forms can also be completed on the  
Yankton Relay For Life website at [www.relayforlife.org/yanktonSD](http://www.relayforlife.org/yanktonSD)  
(click on Survivors & Caregivers) by **June 15th** to ensure t-shirt size.

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