

OUTDOORS DIGEST

BOW Beginner Kayaking Clinic July 7

LINCOLN, Neb. — Women age 16 and up are invited to a Becoming an Outdoors-Woman beginner kayaking clinic July 7 at Lake Wana-hoo State Recreation Area north of Wahoo. Participants will learn kayaking techniques from an experienced instructor. No experience is necessary. Kayaking equipment will be provided. The fee of \$15 is due by July 2. Space is limited. Contact Julia Plugge at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission at 402-471-6009 or julia.plugge@nebraska.gov. A park entry permit is required.

Nebraska Retains 104,298 Acres Of Wildlife Habitat

LINCOLN, Neb. — Outdoorsmen and women rely heavily on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands to provide habitat for game species, as well as places to hunt. A better than expected general CRP sign-up will help keep most of those places intact. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will accept 104,298 acres in Nebraska offered under the 43rd CRP general sign-up. The USDA received 1,385 offers in Nebraska, of which 1,249 were accepted. There were 113,911 acres offered. In Nebraska, 201,190 CRP acres will expire Sept. 30, representing a net loss of 96,892 acres. Nationally, 3.9 million acres will be accepted. Without CRP, many game and nongame species would have been displaced or lost. CRP has benefited the nation for more than 25 years in the form of wildlife habitat, hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities and reduced soil erosion off these sensitive acres. There are many programs within CRP, both old and new, targeting wildlife habitat, wetland conservation and soil/water quality for landowners who are interested in enrolling. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office for more information.

Minnesota Angler Reels In ND Record White Bass

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota has a new state record white bass. The Game and Fish Department says Charlie Vang of Brooklyn Park, Minn., reeled in a 4-pound, 10-ounce white bass from Devils Lake on Sunday. The 19-inch fish broke the record of 4 pounds, 8 ounces. That fish also was caught at Devils Lake, in 2000.

ND Fall Turkey Season Will Have Fewer Licenses

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's Game and Fish Department is making 4,145 licenses available for the wild turkey hunting season this fall, a drop of 10 percent from 2011. The reduction is due to a decline in the turkey population over the past several years, when harsh winters were the norm. "Even though last winter was beneficial to our turkey population, we don't know what turkey production will be like, and the number of breeding adult birds is lower than in past years," Upland Game Management Supervisor Stan Kohn said. "If turkey production is exceptionally good this spring, an additional 1,300 licenses may be used early this fall in specific hunting units." The fall turkey season opens Oct. 13 and runs through Jan. 13, 2013. July 5 is the deadline to apply for a license. An experimental hunting season will continue at the federal Northern Great Plains Research Lab at Mandan. Up to 30 licenses will be available. An experimental turkey bow hunting season also will continue in the city limits of Bismarck to help reduce a growing population of wild turkeys in residential areas. Up to 25 licenses will be available.

Special Events Planned In South Dakota State Parks

PIERRE — South Dakota state parks will be holding several special events the fourth weekend in June. The activities are a great way to spend a summer day. Make plans to attend the following events: • Family Fun Days, Pickerel Lake Recreation Area near Waubay. Friday, June 22 through Sunday, June 24. Enjoy a fun-filled family weekend. There'll be lots of games and events for the whole family. Activities are held at the west campground. Info: 605-486-4753 • Basic Birding, Lake Poinsett Recreation Area near Arlington. Learn about birds of the area while hiking the park trails. All ages welcome. Some binoculars will be available, but you're encouraged to bring your own. Saturday, June 23, 9 a.m. CDT. Info: 605-627-5441 • Dutch Oven Gathering, North Point Recreation Area near Pickstown. Saturday, June 23, 10 a.m. CDT. Learn how to use a Dutch oven and try your hand cooking over a fire. Tasting the results is required! Info: 605-487-7046 • Crazy Critters of South Dakota, Pierson Ranch Recreation Area near Yankton. Saturday, June 23, 10 a.m. CDT. Come enjoy an educational program that centers on some of our crazy animal neighbors. Info: 605-668-2985 • Mr. Drip's Trip, Newton Hills State Park near Canton. Saturday, June 23, at 11 a.m. CDT. This fun activity will teach about all the places a single drop of water can travel over the course of 5,000 years. We will also talk about water conservation and how important our natural resources are while making a craft. This program qualifies as a Junior Naturalist Program. Info: 605-987-2263 • A Walk on the Dark Side Night Hike, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton. Saturday, June 23, 10 p.m. CDT. Bring flashlights and lanterns as we learn about the night life of the Gavin's Nature Trail. Please meet at trail head and wear walking shoes. Info: 605-668-2985 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.glp.sd.gov or contact the individual park office or call 605-773-3391.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

# The Wind: A Friend Or Foe?

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

The wind, some cuss it while others who know how to use it wait breathlessly, waiting for it to come up so they can go fishing.

Over the last five months, there's been days when we've had way too much wind, with days where it's impossible for anglers in some areas to even launch their boat little alone fish. When the wind pounds into the dock can cause all kinds of problems when you're trying to get your boat launched.

There are days in the Midwest, in our area, where the wind comes up so quickly, blowing so hard, making boat control almost impossible, while on other days, it lies down, with the water on the lake becoming glass smooth.

I'm one of those anglers who wants some wind when I fish, looking at the forecast the night before and the day I'm planning on fishing, hoping for a little chop on the water, not the gale force like we ran into on our last trip to the Webster/Waubay area but enough wind to put a chop on the water.

Most walleye anglers know that a wind or walleye chop helps to make a day on the water more successful.

Because walleyes are very light sensitive, they're primarily low light feeders, feeding early in the morning, during late afternoon and evening hours when the sun is at it's lowest levels.

As the wind picks up wave action on the water, cuts the sunlight penetration, allowing the walleyes to become active during the day, which means the fish could become active, moving shallow to feed during the day.

When the wind rolls into the shore they loosen soil, carrying it back into the water, creating a mud line. The soil or mud that's brought back into the water, suspends on the top of the water, cutting the sun's penetration, creating a cloud in the water, allowing the fish to feed under the mud line.

Depending on how strong the wind is, this cloud may only be a few yards wide or it may cover several hundred yards. This mud line allows walleyes to move from the deep water into the shallows to feed throughout the day.

This is why you'll see boats fighting the wind on the reservoirs along a muddy shoreline or points.

I learned that the wind could be a



PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES  
Team member Doug Haas of Mitchell is pictured with a walleye taken by casting Rattle Traps into flooded timber on the windy side of Lordi Slough in the Waubay-Webster area.

friend to an angler at an early age as I spent a lot of time on the Sioux River and Lake Pelican near Watertown.

We weren't what you'd call real serious fishermen, we just loved the outdoor and went after anything that was biting and it was a way to get away from home as if you hung around the house too long, you could get be assigned another chore.

After several trips, it always seemed that the fish, which were primarily north-erns and bullheads seemed to bite better

when there was some wind, didn't know why, they just seemed to be more active in the wind.

At that time, we figured the reason we were catching more fish on windy days than some of our friends who didn't fish on windy days was because we were just better fishermen.

Of course, part of it was, the more time you spend doing anything whether it be fishing, hunting running, swimming etc, the better you're going to be at it.

Years later, I found out that there could possibly be another reason why we were able to catch more fish other than our superior fishing skills.

As the wind comes up, blowing from one direction or another it forces the water from one side of the lake or pond to the other, which pushes anything found in that body of water in that direction.

I'm not saying the wind pushes the fish to the windy side, but it dose move the things the fish feed on in that general direction.

It's a food chain thing and since aquatic critters can't pull into Wendy's or Burger King, they have to follow their food source.

When the wind blows, anything floating or suspended in the water is pushed from one side to the other in the waves. This means that, plankton, organisms that drift in the water, such as zooplankton, which is usually too small to be seen with the naked eye is pushed to the windy side of the lake, pond or river. This forces the smaller prey fish to move with it or go hungry, which in turn forces the predator fish to move with them, putting the majority of the fish big and small on the windy side of the lake.

As an angler that many of us all know says, it's not rocket science, it's a food change thing, as the micro organisms are pushed to that side of the lake, which causes the baitfish and smaller predator fish, the smaller prey fish, the larger prey fish and then us, the anglers to that side of the lake.

Wind can be a friend when it creates a mud line or forces the aquatic creatures to the windy side of the lake, as well as a foe when it blows so hard that we, the anglers can't get our boats on the lake because of waves pounding into the dock or when it comes up while you're out, making boat control impossible or at times dangerous as we try to make our way back to the dock, to get off the lake.

Try fishing the windy side of the lake, where the wind blows into the shoreline, as it might just be what's needed to make your next fishing trip more successful, but we need to respect the wind, as it can change from being your friend to your foe very quickly.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which can be seen on KELO TV's MyUTV digital station at 3:00 pm Sundays and in Yankton Saturday @ 6:30 pm & Sunday @ 7:00 am on Channels 3 and 98. Outdoor Adventures radio airs six days a week at 6:40 am in Southeast South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. More information on the outdoors can be found at www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

## Falcon Chicks Banded In Grand Forks

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Officials have put tracking bands on the offspring of one of only two known pairs of peregrine falcons in North Dakota.

Raptor researchers banded the three chicks in Grand Forks on Wednesday, about three weeks after the birds hatched in

a nest atop the University of North Dakota water tower. The falcons' migratory patterns will be tracked the rest of their lives.

The only other known pair of peregrines in the state nest atop a bank building in downtown Fargo.

## TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Sarah Tipton (left), a 21-year-old from Burke, shot this rare albino Bighead Carp on May 31 at the Missouri River near Wynot, Neb. In what was her first time bowfishing, Tipton was fishing with Marilyn Wiebelhaus of Wynot. The fish weighed 55 pounds, just three pounds shy of the South Dakota state record. Tipton's father, Keith, is having Lewon's Taxidermy of Randolph, Neb., mount the fish.

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## Teen Sets Wis. Record With Monster Carp

BY PAUL A. SMITH  
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MILWAUKEE — The teenagers were up to their usual late night activity.

Zack Seitz, 18, of Campbell-sport, Wis., and Nic Gerhartz, 19, of Kewaskum, Wis., stood in the bow.

Matt Nelson, 18, of Campbell-sport took his turn at the oars. Pick a place for three young men to be at 11 p.m. on a Friday night, and most would never guess: bowfishing.

"We love it," said Seitz. As the 14-foot jon boat moved slowly through a back channel of Long Lake in Fond du Lac County, a generator hummed and bright lights illuminated the shallows.

Two carp appeared in the water ahead of the boat. Seitz and Gerhartz readied their bows. But then something diverted Seitz's attention. "I saw a huge, glowing shape out of the corner of my eye," Seitz said.

It too was a carp. And even though it was farther away, Seitz

opted to shoot for it.

He turned, aimed and released an arrow. The water erupted and the fish began swimming away from the boat.

The arrow struck the hefty fish near the dorsal fin. It took 5 minutes to reel it to hand.

Although he'd taken hundreds of carp over the last few years, including some 30 pounders, Seitz wasn't prepared for the size of the fish on the end of his line.

They pulled the fish over the transom and laid it on the deck.

The fish's proper name is the common carp. But there was nothing ordinary about this one. It was 46 inches long and had a 32 ( inch girth.

Minutes later, a thunderstorm rolled in. The anglers rowed back to the boat landing and did something unusual in Wisconsin - they put the carp on ice.

"I was thinking it might have a chance at the record," Seitz said.

The recent Kewaskum High School graduate was right. The next morning, a certified scale at Loehr's Meat Market in Campbellsport determined the fish

weighed 59 pounds.

The alternate methods (spear or bow and arrow) Wisconsin carp record was 51 pounds. That fish was taken in Lake Geneva on May 31, 2006, by William Hoyt of Delavan.

The Wisconsin hook-and-line record for the species is a 57-pound, 2-ounce fish caught in Lake Wisconsin in 1966.

Seitz shot the fish May 25, then put the fish in the biggest cooler he could find, filled it with ice and waited for the Plymouth DNR office to open after Memorial Day weekend.

Travis Motl, DNR fisheries biologist, verified the species, weighed the fish on a hanging scale (it also read 59 pounds) and cut the fish open to check for "foreign" objects.

The carp passed all the tests.

The record fish application has been accepted by the DNR, Motl said on Friday. Seitz is celebrating more than his high school diploma.

He's a state fish record holder.

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