

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

# When Things Just Come Together

## Everything Goes Right On Fishing Trip To Lake Oahe

BY GARY HOWEY  
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It's been said, "when the planets are properly lined up; things are bound to go well."

I'm not sure know if that's true but something was working in our favor when we traveled to the Gettysburg area to fish Lake Oahe, as it was a trip to remember.

Whenever we hit the road to film, we're always optimistic and this year, because the fishing throughout the Missouri River has been great, with excellent fishing throughout the system from Lake Oahe on down to Gavins Point Dam at Yankton, we thought this could be another good trip!

Good trip would be an understatement; as we had one of the most successful fishing trips I've ever been a part of.

This has been a strange year, warm temperatures and wind and as we worked our way north towards Gettysburg, the wind did it's best to blow us off the highway and as anyone whose fished Lake Oahe can tell you, when the wind blows up there, it can be one tough ride!

Wind blown, but still optimistic, we checked into our headquarters on this trip Bob's Resort, www.bobsresort.com, located just down the road from Gettysburg on Whitlock Bay.

Looking out across the bay from the resort, it was obvious by the white caps piling into the shoreline; there'd be no fishing today.

We'd be fishing with my good friend and long time Lake Oahe guide Chuck Krause, www.chuckkrauseguideservice.com one of the top guides on the big lake. Since I'd fished with Chuck numerous times before, there was no doubt he'd put us on fish as he's been a successful tournament fishermen and has guided on the lake since 1980.

As the sun illuminated the eastern sky the following morning, we launched, heading out on the lake trying to beat the wind.

Since the bite had been excellent, with almost all bait presentations producing, including jigs,

live bait rigs or crankbaits on walleyes and bass. If the wind got to be too much, our other option would be to head back into of the numerous dark bottom bays to fish northerns or catfish using dead smelt.

Plan A, our preferred plan would be to jig for walleyes and small-mouths off some of the numerous points in the lake, which worked well for us as we did well on both before the wind returned with a vengeance.

Our other option, was looking pretty good as the wind picked up would be to try and get out of the wind, working our way back into the bays, rig up with treble hooks tipped with frozen smelt or jigs tipped with several minnows and to patiently wait for a hungry fish to pass by, which was a short wait, as Larry's smelt rig had just hit bottom when his rod took a savage bounce, indicating a fish on.

Larry, grab the rod, reeled up the lack and set the hook hard, which really ticked off the big fish on the other end of the line as it made a hard charge towards open water while Larry held on, gaining a few feet with each turn of his reel handle. It looked as if he might not be winning the fight as he'd gain a few feet and the fish would take ten. Just as it seemed that Larry was about to get the fish under control, the line went limp, snapping, indicating the fish on the line had to be a big northern as it's sharp teeth severed the line, the line on the rod which happened to be the only one that wasn't rigged with a steel leader.

In a short period of time, while fishing from shore, we boated walleye, northern, and channel catfish, making for a perfect ending to day one of our fishing trip on Lake Oahe.

Day two was a complete turn, around, as it would be an ideal day for fishing, sunny, warm and what we'd call a perfect walleye chop, just enough wind to ripple the surface of the water.

Chuck launched his Skeeter just below the resort in the bay just off the Highway 212 bridge and motored only a couple of hundred yards to the base of the rock rip rap shoreline below the 212 bridge. Casting jigs up into the shallows, we worked them slowly back through the rocks and jig eating submerged trees towards the boat.

Then it began! Where one if not two of us would have a fish on with walleyes, small-mouth



Guide Chuck Krause, Chuck Krause Guide Service, with one of the many walleyes taken on a recent trip to Lake Oahe near Gettysburg.

bass and northerns all eager to accept our offerings of jigs tipped with minnows.

Of course, the northerns were there with their razor sharp teeth and gill plates, doing their best to run off with our baits as before we left, we did our best to adorn several of the pike with lip jewelry when they swam off with our jigs.

The trees located off to our right, were also doing their best to lighten out tackle boxes as by the time we finished, the trees would look like brightly decorated Christmas tree adorned with jigs, cranks and other assorted baits.

No matter what we pitched, jigged or fished directly below the boat, it seemed as if the fish

would take it as Larry was going through his tackle bag trying all sorts of tackle including some really ugly stuff, with strange hook patterns, propellers and tinsel as well as finishing out the day with a bass rig used by tournament anglers, a drop shot rig.

The Gettysburg trip was one that every angler dreams of, where you're with one of the best guides on the lake, have ideal fishing conditions, just a short boat ride from the dock with any and all baits no matter what you're throwing working and the fish we caught all being really good fish.

We ended up boating over 90 fish, which figured out to one or more of us having a fish on every four minutes or so. You've got to

love it!

If our trip is any indicator as to what we might expect to have for fishing this season, then it's going to be a great year on the Missouri River.

If you're looking for an up to date fishing report on the Missouri River reservoirs, check out www.sdgreatlakes.org

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the President of Outdoorsmen Productions, Producer/Host of the Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, which can be seen throughout South Dakota on KELO MYUTV Digital 11.2. For more information on the outdoors can be found at www.outdoorsmenadventures.com

## OUTDOORS DIGEST

### 'No-Wake Zone' Established On Lake Madison To Protect Private Property

PIERRE — At the request of the Lake Madison Lake Association, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has implemented a temporary "no-wake zone" within 300 feet of the shore on the lake, effective at noon on Friday, May 25, because of a high water level.

The "no-wake zone" allows boats and other watercraft to operate at higher speeds on Lake Madison, provided they do so beyond the perimeter of the protective 300-foot-zone around the lake shore. A number of Lake Madison lakeshore residents approached the Lake Madison Lake Association expressing concerns about the potential for additional property damage caused by boat wakes. High water and brisk winds have already caused shoreline damage in several areas.

The Lake Madison Lake Association subsequently asked Department of Game, Fish and Parks officials to consider the no-wake request to protect private property around the lake. State law gives the Governor authority to prohibit or restrict recreational use or navigation on any portion of a river, lake or stream in order to protect the public peace, health, or safety.

The new order will be in effect until rescinded by Gov. Daugaard.

A violation of a public waterway restriction is a Class 2 Misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail, a fine of \$500, or both.

### S.D. Students Honored In State Fish Art Contest

BROOKLYN CENTER, MINN. — Five South Dakota students have been honored for their art in a contest sponsored by Wildlife Forever.

The 2012 State-Fish Art Contest winners are: McKenzie Struck, Sioux Falls, First Place in the grades 4-6 division; Nicholas MacConnell, Veblen, First Place in grades 7-9; Owen Slavick, Veblen, Second Place in grades 7-9; Hope Loebs, Britton, Third Place in grades 7-9; and Rebecca Froehlich, Madison, First Place in grades 10-12.

Winning entries can be seen at www.statefishart.org along with information on how to be part of future contests.

State winners have the opportunity to be in the national contest in June. One work will be selected as the "Art of Conservation Stamp Award," and be reproduced as the 2012 State-Fish Art Conservation Stamp.

Wildlife Forever is a national not-for-profit conservation organization. This is the 14th year of the Fish Art Contest, with a goal of bringing young people, art and aquatic conservation together.

Educators can use "Fish On!" the full-color State-Fish Art Lesson Plan, combining the disciplines of science and art. It can be downloaded from www.StateFishArt.info.

### Antler Auction Featured At Outdoor Expo

PIERRE — The Game, Fish and Parks Department will host its second Antler Auction at the South Dakota Outdoor Expo in Huron on Saturday, June 9.

The auction will take place as part of the 5th Annual South Dakota Outdoor Expo at the State Fairgrounds. The gates open at 9 a.m., and the auction will begin at 10 a.m. in the Fairgrounds Expo Building.

Antlers make up the bulk of auction items, with hundreds of deer antlers and racks offered to bidders. Other items to be auctioned off include mountain lion hides, mountain lion skulls, elk antlers, bighorn sheep racks and more.

"We have an amazing variety of items for auction that should be attractive to taxidermists, hunters, outdoor craft people, and outdoor enthusiasts in general," said GFP's Andy Alban.

The auction will be handled by Schuetzle Auction Service.

## Nebraska Park Permit Sales Up Despite Fee Increase

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Visitors to Nebraska's state parks this Memorial Day weekend will have to pay a little more to get past the front gates, but sales figures released Thursday show the number of permits purchased has surged.

Nebraska Game and Parks division administrator Roger Kuhn told The Associated Press that sales have increased 26 percent between January and April of this year and the same time period in 2011. Lawmakers approved the increases last year and overturned Gov. Dave Heineman's veto. The measure went into effect in January.

"All of our parks have been busier than normal," Kuhn said. "At this point, the park permit fee increase has been very, very well received. I haven't heard any complaints — and that's very unusual."

Kuhn attributed the increase to this year's mild winter and spring, as well as the opening of the new Lake Wanhoo recreational area on the northern edge of Wahoo — a roughly 30-minute drive from both Omaha and Lincoln.

The increases — from \$20 to \$25 for annual entry fee for residents, \$25 to \$30 for non-resident annual entry fee and \$4 to \$5 for a daily park pass — were intended to help state park administrators cover maintenance and upkeep costs. Heineman said the increased fees would discourage Nebraskans from visiting parks at a time when higher fuel prices were keeping many closer to home.

The law's sponsor, former Louisville Sen. Dave Pankonin, has said the Nebraska Game and Parks

Commission reduced costs through staff cuts and privatizing some park services before it requested the fee increase.

Pankonin said Thursday that, even with the increase, Nebraska's park fees are the most affordable nationwide. Of the 36 states that sell permits to help pay for their parks, Nebraska's \$25 annual fee is the lowest, along with Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

"It's still a very good bargain," Pankonin said. "That was our hope — that it wouldn't affect the sales, but would still help Game and Parks maintain what it has."

Kuhn said the fee increase helps pay for garbage service at the parks, tree-trimming, lawn maintenance, building and vehicle repairs and other needs.

Last year, the parks reported \$34 million in deferred maintenance costs. The Legislative Fiscal Office has estimated that the law will raise an additional \$1.2 million a year for park services.

The Game and Parks Commis-

sion sold 115,325 permits between January and April of this year, according to state data. In the same period last year, state officials sold 91,515 entry permits. Permits sold online or through a private vendor also include a \$1 issuance fee, under the new law.

Kuhn said the increase was enough to cover inflation since the last time the rates were raised. He said the commission slashed 41 full-time positions between 2009 and 2011, and would have needed to cut more without the higher fees.

Roughly 70 percent of the parks budget comes from user fees. The remaining 30 percent has come from the state's general fund, with the percentage declining in recent years.

Nebraska has also relied on private donations to pay for parks. The Nebraska Parks Foundation has financed various park projects in recent years, including \$539,000 to buy 425 acres of land to develop Mahoney State Park between Lincoln and Omaha.

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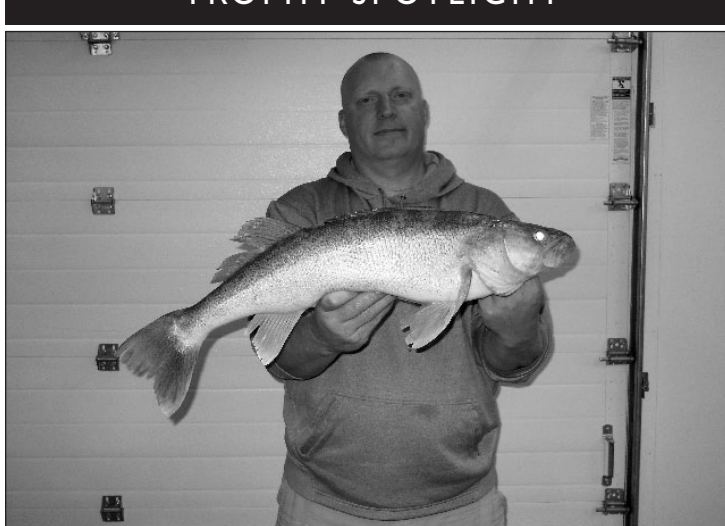
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## TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



Jeff Benjamin of Yankton caught this 9.5-pound walleye while fishing below Gavin's Point Dam near Yankton. He caught the walleye using a slip bobber rig.

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