

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

# Live Bait The Best Way To Catch Fish

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

It said that catching fish is not really all that complicated, you just need to give the fish what they want.



Gary HOWEY

Unfortunately, on one day, it may be a crankbait and the next time you are out it might be a jig & minnow. If you are looking for baits that will take all species of fish, no matter what season you are fishing or the species of fish you are after, live-

bait is the most effective presentation that you could ever throw at a fish.

Why, the answers simple, live bait is real, just like the name implies.

You do not need to do anything to make it look real, act or smell real, because it is real. It looks acts, feels and smells, as it is suppose to!

Sure, you are going to need a way to get the bait down to the fish, but once your live bait is in the water, it will do its magic, which is to catch fish.

When some people think of live bait, they think of the old hook, line, sinker and a worm.

Of course, that is one form of a livebait-fishing rig, but there is much more to livebait fishing than just throwing out a worm!

As I mentioned earlier, livebait will work on all species of fish!

Walleye fishermen use minnows, leeches and night crawlers. These baits can be used in combination



PHOTO BY LARRY MYHRE  
Kent Hutcheson, Hutch's Guide Service with a healthy Lake Oahe walleye taken using fresh super crawlers that had been prepared using the method in this column.

with bottom bouncers & spinners, jigs, Roach Rigs and slip bobber rigs.

Some Bass fishermen use live bait such as salamanders, crawlers, minnows and crawfish, often using them in conjunction with a slip bobber rig or with a jig.

Cat fishermen use suckers, minnows, bluegills, crawfish, night crawlers and just about any other type of bait known to man. They will use heavy equipment, heavy line, and slip sinkers with large hooks when fishing for cats.

Pan fishermen go after bluegill, crappie, sunfish and perch with minnows, worms, maggots, wax worms or other small live baits.

Pan fish ate taken using small jigs, hooks, split shot and slip bobbers.

It is hard to find a species of game fish that cannot be caught using livebait, except for those that feed on zooplankton!

The key to catching fish using livebait is to have good, strong healthy bait.

This can be tough, during certain times of year.

The folks at Frabill have come up with several new products allowing you to keep your bait fresh; ready to help you catch fish.

Keeping bait well oxygenated and cool is the key to having healthy minnows and leeches.

This time of the year, the only thing you need to worry about when it comes to minnows is to keep them oxygenated

However, when it is hot, minnows will need to have their water changed often or some other way to oxygenate the water.

The folks at Frabill have come up with several new products that help to keep your bait healthy and active. Their MIN-O-LIFE PERSONAL BAIT STATION features superior insulation in an 8-quart hard shell cooler design that keeps water and bait cooler

Inside you will find a lift-out net liner with easy access to the bait al-

lowing you to lift up the net to select your bait

Their Frabill Bait Station has a portable aerator with whisper-drive quiet operation powered by two D-cell batteries and will keep your bait healthy in the warmest of conditions

Anglers that use leeches will want to change the water often on their leeches because of the waste they produce, which will scum up your water quickly, making it unhealthy even for a lowly leech!

Leeches will also last longer if you add ice to their water.

Crawlers are the most susceptible to the warm temperatures of summer.

With the rain we have been receiving, the night crawlers are out and it is easy to go out and pick up a mess of them. After good night of crawler hunting, I like put them in a good worm bedding, you will need to keep them cool in a good quality worm bedding; like, Frabill's Fat & Sassy or you are going to end up with a stinky gooey mess that even a catfish would not touch.

I dump my crawlers on the top of the bedding, checking them the next couple of mornings to see if they have dug down into the bedding. If there are still some left on top after a couple of days, I will pitch them as generally damaged when you picked them.

Another thing that I like to do to insure good healthy bait is to prepare my crawlers before heading out onto the water.

Preparing them is quite easy and it makes the worms plump up and is a whole lot livelier than a standard crawler is.

The first thing you will need is a plastic container, similar to a Tupperware cake container allowing you to stack your crawlers in layers.

Then you will need to soak a newspaper in ice water, next, put a couple of sheets of the cold saturated paper on the bottom of the container.

Next, put down a layer of crawlers and then another piece of the cold wet newspaper. Continue this process until you have the last piece of newspaper protruding just above the top of the container.

Now gently snap on the lid and then put the container in the refrigerator over night.

The worms will soak up the cold icy water and you will end up with super crawlers that will help to entice even the fussiest of fish.

Livebait is the original way to catch fish and remains the most effective way to catch those finny critters.

Keep your bait cool, use healthy, lively bait and when fish will not bite other baits, give livebait fishing with fresh bait a shot, you might have forgot what you've been missing.

Gary Howey, 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 on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. In the Yankton area, it airs on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am as well as on MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the *Outdoor Adventures* radio program Monday-Saturday at 6:45 am on *Classic Hits 106.3* and *ESPN Sports Radio 1570*. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com) and like *Outdoorsmen Adventures* on Facebook.

## OUTDOORS DIGEST

### Yankton Step Outside Event June 21

Yankton area youth will have a chance to participate in the sixth annual Yankton Step Outside event on Saturday, June 21. The event will take place at the Isaac Walton Trap Range east of Yankton on Highway 50 and will run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Youth attending the event will be able to shoot shotguns, .22 rifles, BB guns, bow and arrow. The event is free and is open to youth 8 years old and older. All youth must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be a free lunch provided. The event will be held rain or shine, so come dressed for the weather.

If you have any questions, contact Conservation Officer Sam Schelhaas at 668-2985.

### Neb. Game & Parks Urges Boaters To Think Safety This Summer

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraskans are asked to be cautious when they enjoy a day on the water in their boats this summer. Boating safety should never be taken for granted.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission suggests ways boaters may reduce the risk of incidents and help ensure a safe and enjoyable day on the water.

**Wear a Life Jacket** — Children under age 13 and anybody on a personal watercraft are required by law to wear a United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device. People being towed by a boat on skis, a tube or other similar device also must wear a life jacket.

**Avoid Alcohol** — Boat operators can become impaired with less alcohol than motor vehicle drivers due to heat and dehydration. Boating Under the Influence is a criminal violation and is enforced actively in Nebraska.

**Have All Required Safety Equipment** — This will help boaters be prepared if an emergency occurs. Life jackets, throw

cushions, fire extinguishers and bailing devices are required on most boats. For a list of what is required on a boat, check out the 2014 Boating Guide at [BoatSafeNebraska.org](http://BoatSafeNebraska.org).

**Be Wary of Surroundings** — The best boat operators constantly are looking around for other boats, personal watercraft, swimmers, stumps and other hazards. Speeds in excess of 5 mph are prohibited if within 30 yards of any other vessel, swimming area or dock.

**Take a Boating Safety Course** — Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1985, who operates a motorboat or personal watercraft in Nebraska, must have successfully completed the Nebraska boating safety course. Visit [BoatSafeNebraska.org](http://BoatSafeNebraska.org) for a list of classes.

### Stokely Named Brook Brown Boating Officer Of The Year

PIERRE — The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators has named Tony Stokely the 2014 Brook Brown Boating Officer of the Year. Stokely is a conservation officer for the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP); stationed in Elk Point.

"Tony is highly experienced and knowledgeable in the field of boating enforcement and patrols one of the most unique and complex bodies of water in the state," said Brandon Gust, GFP boating law administrator. "He patrols over 50 miles of river in the southeastern corner of the state and works in one of the only remaining stretches of water similar to what Lewis and Clark encountered on their historic expedition."

Gust acknowledged that Stokely is routinely faced with hazardous and unknown river conditions; yet has always excelled in his boating enforcement efforts.

About the Award: The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' (NASBLA) award is presented

annually to the boating law enforcement officer who has made outstanding contributions to the field of boating law enforcement.

The South Dakota award was renamed to honor a previous recipient and GFP conservation officer, Brook Brown. Brown lost his battle with cancer during the summer of 2012 and was well known for his contributions to the state's boating enforcement and education efforts.

### Park Visitors Asked To Restrict Firewood Movement

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Game and

Parks Commission is asking campers to restrict the movement of firewood to prevent the entry of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) into the state.

EAB is a tree-killing beetle native to Asia. It can move from state to state in firewood. EAB has become established near Creston, Iowa, just 60 miles from the Nebraska border.

A Voluntary Firewood Exchange Program is in place at several state park areas to prevent the movement of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) into the state. Campers at Niobrara, Ponca, Eugene T. Mahoney and Indian Cave state parks, and Branched Oak, Lewis and Clark, Pawnee and Two Rivers state recreation areas who bring firewood from outside of the state should exchange their wood at the park office or campground host for an equal volume of locally acquired firewood.

In addition, it is recommended that Nebraska residents also acquire firewood at or near their destination, rather than bringing it from other loca-

tions. Locally acquired firewood will be sold at park offices or concessions inside Chadron, Fort Robinson, Indian Cave, Eugene T. Mahoney, Niobrara, Platte River, Ponca and Smith Falls state parks and Branched Oak, Fremont, Lake Maloney, Lake Minatare, Lewis and Clark, Louisville, and Two Rivers state recreation areas.

Wood lying on the ground at Game and Parks properties may be collected and burned as firewood on site.

Park visitors are reminded to enjoy campfires safely and in compliance with regulations to prevent wildfires.

### Winter Bird-Watching Offered At Lewis & Clark Recreation Area

Lewis and Clark Recreation Area is offering a chance to experience winter bird watching. A "self-

guided hike" leads park users to many different species of wintering birds.

Brochures and a registration book are located outside the Welcome Center park office door. Bird/sue! feeders have also been placed in areas of the park along the birding trail to attract the wintering birds.

"Walkers may follow the marked trail in different directions through grassy areas, along established park roads, or on the existing bike trail," said Shane Bertsch, District Park Supervisor.

Bertsch also reminds park visitors that a park entrance license is required year-round for all vehicles entering the park and may be purchased at the self-pay station at the entrance booth if the park office is closed.

For more information, contact Lewis & Clark Recreation Area at (605) 668-2985.



## Excellence: THE HEART AND SOUL OF AVERA

Ranked among the Top 15% in the nation for

### Outstanding Patient Experience

At Avera Sacred Heart Hospital we want our patients and families to feel cared for and supported in the midst of whatever challenges they face. While an ever-increasing number of hospitals rank patient experience as a top priority, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital is nationally recognized by Healthgrades® as being in the top 15% of these hospitals as recipients of the 2014 Outstanding Experience Award. Recipients of this award have demonstrated they excel in ways their patients value most.



Healthgrades is the leading provider of information to help consumers make an informed decision about a physician or hospital. More than 200 million consumers use Healthgrades' comprehensive information about clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction and patient safety to make informed health care decisions. Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton: 2014 Outstanding Patient Experience award recipients—because providing excellence is our heart and soul.



AveraSacredHeart.org