

## OUTDOORSUPDATE

OF THE OUTDOORS:

## Hunting Is All About The Experience

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

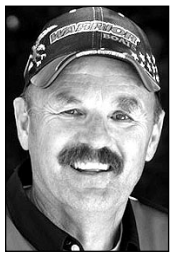
Last week, I was at a church breakfast when I stopped to talk with a friend I hadn't seen in a while.

Of course, our conversation was about the outdoors, as we both enjoy outdoor activities.

I'd had the privilege to hunt turkeys on his land in years past and wanted to check to see if there were still good numbers of the birds around.

He indicated that there were a lot of turkeys and that I'd be welcome to hunt, just to let him know when I'd be there.

As our conversation moved on, we started to talk about deer hunting as he



Gary Howey

was looking forward to the upcoming deer season and that he and the boys enjoyed the hunting, but really all it was about was the experience.

He mentioned how special it was to see the sun coming up, hearing the crows, pheasants and turkeys as they awoke, and seeing a deer in the distance.

The bagging of the bird or deer was also great, but just being there and seeing all of this made it worthwhile.

He was right, as the outdoor experience should be more than catching your limit or filling your tag.

We're extremely lucky to live where we do as the air is clean, we don't have to fight crowds and to get out into the outdoors we can do it in a very short period of time.

When I guided, we had clients from both coast as well as big cities in the Midwest and down south, and one of the comments that we heard often was how beautiful our sunrises and sunset were.

Another comment was that our evenings were so pretty as where they came from, they didn't have the opportunity to see the stars as the skyscraper were



Gary Howey is pictured with his grandson Braedon Howey of Pierce, Neb., with a bluegill Braedon caught while fishing a small pond near Hartington, Neb.

all that was visible when they looked skyward.

If my clients wanted to get outdoors, they had to come to the Midwest as everything in their area was posted, "No trespassing," "Trespassers will be shot" and "Survivors will be shot again!"

If there was a place that they could spend some time in the outdoors, they had to pay some exorbitant fee, hunt pen raised birds, high fence animals and still have to fight the crowds.

Since we live so close to the river and lake, we can go fishing or waterfowl hunting by taking a short drive.

Like the friend I mentioned earlier, there are landowners out there that will probably allow you to hunt if you simply ask.

They might have a relative or friend that hunts the early season, which means the late season, may be open to you by simply asking.

Both Nebraska and South Dakota have map, wildlife habitat improvement areas or walk-in areas that are open for hunting. These are areas that the state owns or pays the landowner a small fee to allow hunting.

Maps of these areas are available at no charge from permit vendors and Game, Fish & Parks offices.

These areas — whether they be public or private — should be left as they were when you first arrived and the quickest way to hunt after you to loose permission to hunt on the land is to leave a gate open or by not picking up your trash.

As one conservation group logo indicates, "Leave Only Your Footprints Behind."

After you've gotten permission and hunted the land, it's not a bad idea to offer to share some of the game with the landowner or remember them during the holidays.

In many states, much of the land is privately owned and if it weren't for these landowners, many of us wouldn't have an area to hunt.

As I mentioned before, the hunting and catching is just a small part of the outdoors, a lot of it is spending time with friends and family and getting away from the every day stress of your job.

The outdoors is a great place for a father and son or daughter to spend some quality time as there's no schedule that has to be met, so the old everyday grind is something that can be left behind and the peace and quiet of the outdoors can help bring family and friends together.

As a television producer, I spend a lot of time on the phone or in potential clients offices trying to bring them on-board "Outdoorsmen Adventures," and can honestly say that I've signed more sponsors while fishing or out hunting, as there's no pressure out there.

If you aren't one of the lucky ones that has already found the peace and tranquility of the outdoors, give it a try. It's great therapy.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former guide and tournament angler. He's the producer of the *Outdoorsmen Adventures* television series that airs each week throughout the upper Midwest and on [www.MyOutdoorTV.com](http://www.MyOutdoorTV.com) For more information on the outdoors, check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).

## Hikers Reach Home Stretch Of Walk Around Lake Superior

BY SAM COOK

(c) 2010, Duluth News Tribune (Duluth, Minn.)

SLEEPING GIANT PROVINCIAL PARK, Ontario — Mike Link and Kate Crowley are growing weary by mid-afternoon when they come upon the rope. It is tied in an ancient knot to a tree along the Kabeyun Trail on a rugged peninsula that juts into Lake Superior northeast of Thunder Bay.

The rope is heavy hawser, damp and festooned with green moss. But the Willow River, Minn., couple — he's 64, she's 60 — will need to rely on it to make a controlled 12-foot descent of a wet slab of shale on this 16-mile hike.

This challenge is just one more that Link and Crowley have encountered on their five-month, 1,800-mile walk around Lake Superior. Now more than two-thirds of their way through, they left Duluth April 29 on the adventure they call Full Circle Superior. They plan to arrive back in Duluth, striding down the Lakewalk, on Sept. 18.

The trip is a way to celebrate Link's retirement from the Northwoods Audubon Center at Sandstone, Minn. The couple, both naturalists, also are calling attention to protecting freshwater resources, especially the lake that has been over their left shoulders for 1,200 miles.

Link, wearing elastic bands to support his tired knees, grabs the rope and leans back, rappel-style, to scramble down the rock. Then he holds the rope as Crowley, 60, makes the descent.

"This is a Canadian trail," says Link, 64. "U.S. trails are kind of a domesticated path through wild land. In Canada, it's a wilder walk through wild land."

The expedition has lived up to all expectations. Crowley and Link first traveled Wisconsin and Michigan's shoreline, averaging 15 miles a day. Once in Canada, they dialed the distance back to about 12 miles a day. They're right on schedule and glad to be heading south again.

"We feel really good," Crowley says the evening before, sitting in the motor home that serves as their mobile base. "I don't have the sense we have to rush to get home. Just get up every morning, look at where we're going and look at the weather."

The couple rarely knows their precise route more than about two days ahead. Rather than walking roads, they seek the advice of locals along the way about paths that take them closer to the lake.



Kate Crowley and Mike Link hike along a beach on Lake Superior in Ontario, Canada's Sleeping Giant Provincial Park on Aug. 21.

Those routes have taken them along dirt roads, forest trails, sand beaches, cobble beaches, boulder beaches, highways, abandoned railroad grades, active railroads, streams, clay banks, sand dunes, bedrock, bogs — and even the lake itself, as they walked waist-deep water to get around a protruding point.

"We've walked across stuff we wouldn't want our grandkids to do," Link says.

Where the road leaves the Canadian lakeshore between Michipicoten and Marathon, Link and Crowley were joined by nine others to paddle a 36-foot voyageur canoe along the shore for 11 days. They encountered 8- and 9-foot waves, Link said.

"We were windbound for parts of seven days," he said.

At a stop on Otter Island, an assistant guide from Naturally Superior outfitters in Wawa, Ontario, fell from a cliff and had to be airlifted off the island by helicopter. He has since recovered.

The physical aspect of the hiking is evident. Link had lost 20 pounds in training before the trip, and he's dropped another 29

pounds on the trail. Crowley has lost 6 or 7 pounds.

"That's a sore point," she says. "We've walked the same distance."

Link's knees were a known risk when the trip began, and they have caused him plenty of pain and some lost sleep along the way. He probably will have a pair of knee replacements sometime after the trip. But his resolve to continue is unwavering.

"Oh, I'm going to make it," he says.

People ask Link and Crowley how far they go each day. When they say 15 miles, people often say, "Oh, that's a nice distance," Link says.

But most of us haven't hiked 15 miles in a day for some time — maybe ever. That's like walking more than a Garry Bjorklund Half-Marathon with a 20-pound daypack, then getting up and doing it the next day, and the next, and the next.

The Kabeyun Trail hike at Sleeping Giant begins as most days do, the couple says. The first miles are easy. Link and Crowley chat more in the mornings, they say. But later in the day, the conversation dwindles as they focus on simply making miles.

At an evening program at Sleeping Giant, someone asks the couple what the least favorite part of the walk has been.

"The late afternoons," Crowley says without hesitation. "And hills. I don't like hills."

All along their walk, Crowley and Link make notes of what they observe. Crowley shoots frequent videos and interviews people the couple meets along the lakeshore. At intervals, she shoots still photos to document what they're seeing. Link takes photos, notes invasive plant communities for cooperating university researchers and uses a satellite tracking device that posts the couple's location on their website.

In the evenings, they spend up to two hours posting dispatches, photos and videos to their website. They often do that while sitting in their car with two laptops outside libraries where they borrow wi-fi connections. Many evenings, they've given presentations on their trip at community centers and parks.

The trek has reinforced their appreciation for the natural world, something Link and Crowley have always shared.

"What's made it so great," Crowley says, "is that we both love everything we see. In towns, it might be a garden. For Mike, it's often rocks. There's hardly anything we see that we don't feel like sharing with each other."

The Kabeyun Trail stretches on in late afternoon. Link and Crowley walk mostly in silence. Legs and shoulders complain, and the trail is difficult.

"Walking has reinforced the idea of being in the moment," Crowley says. "You've got 15 miles to go, and you can only walk 2 or 3 miles per hour. I decided early on in the trip to be in the moment."

In those moments, small events occur. A loon calls out on the lake. A pileated woodpecker swoops ahead repeatedly. A huge whitetail buck comes swimming across a bay and approaches the shoreline.

"This day's events will take their place with all the others that are now part of the couple's conversations."

"In the Huron Mountains..." one of the two will say, starting a story.

Or, "That day at Gros Cap..."

Or, "Remember, on the Casque Isles Trail..."

And one day, they will talk about the summer they walked around Lake Superior.

## History Comes To Life At Beaver Creek Nature Area For Harvest Festival

BRANDON — Fiddlers, homestead living, pioneer farming, Civil War soldiering, pioneer crafts and outdoor cooking will greet visitors to Beaver Creek Nature Area near Brandon on Sunday, Sept. 12.

From 1 to 4 p.m. CDT, the park will host the 32nd Annual Homesteader Day Harvest Festival. The event attracts thousands of visitors of all ages each year who want a taste of homestead life and pioneer living history.

According to District Park Supervisor Marty DeWitt, the afternoon's activities showcase what life was like when the prairies of Dakota Territory were settled.

"For many people, especially younger folks, all they know about life more than 100 years ago is what they read in books or see in the movies," DeWitt said. "At the

Homesteader Day Harvest Festival, we give them a chance to experience first-hand the sights, sounds and smells of that bygone era."

Visitors can watch teams of horses go about the tasks of plowing, cultivating, seeding and harvesting the old-fashioned way. Visitors can also listen to the music of the South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers and take part in homestead crafts like candle and rope making, Dutch oven cooking, and butter making.

Other demonstrations will include spinning and weaving, wood carving, chair caning, corn shelling and pioneer games. The 13th Infantry will be on-hand to give visitors a glimpse of what it was like to be a soldier during the Civil War; the Silver Creek Mavericks, a cowboy reenactment group, will share the stories of the early cowboys on the

prairie. Food and refreshments will be available on site.

New for this year will be a traveling exhibit from the South Dakota State Historical Society, entitled "Dakota to the Land: Homesteading Dakota," which tells the story of the

homesteading experience in the early Dakotas.

Admission to the Homesteader Day Harvest Festival is free.

Beaver Creek Nature Area is located southeast of Brandon, one-half mile west of the intersection of

484th Avenue and 264th Street. For additional information, contact Palisades State Park at 605-594-3824. For additional information on South Dakota State Parks, visit [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov) or call 605-773-3391.

## OUTDOOR REPORT

## Kayak/Canoe Event On Missouri River Sept. 12

MECKLING — On Sunday, Sept. 12, join area river enthusiasts for an outing on the Missouri River Water Trail. The route will be from Myron Grove (Highlines) near Meckling to Mulberry Bend near the Newcastle-Vermillion Bridge. Unique features of this river segment include Goat Island and the Gunderson Backwater.

Meet at the Myron Grove boat ramp at 9 a.m. Shuttle service by DJ's Sports Rentals from the take-out back to Myron Grove is available until 2 p.m. for a fee. Bring your own water, snacks, and sunscreen.

Bring your own kayak/canoe or rent one in advance from DJ's Sports Rentals at [www.djsportsrentals.com](http://www.djsportsrentals.com) or 605-665-3206. For event questions, call Rick Johns of the SD Canoe and Kayak Association at 605-624-9704 or Dean Spader at 605-624-6831. For event updates and more information about the new Missouri National Recreational River trail, visit [www.mnrwatertrail.org](http://www.mnrwatertrail.org).

To get to Myron Grove, drive west from Vermillion or east from Yankton on Highway 50 to 454th Ave. Turn south and drive 6.5 miles to the Missouri River.

## East River Deer Application Deadline Extended

PIERRE — Due to a malfunctioning computer server, the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department will be extending the application deadline for the 2010 East River Deer Season.

"The server was not allowing people to apply for East River, Muzzleloader and Refuge deer or the third drawing of West River deer and Fall Turkey on Monday evening and Tuesday morning," said GFP Licensing Supervisor Shon Eide.

"To make sure everyone has a chance to apply, on-line applications for the seasons listed below will be taken until 8am central time on Wednesday, Sept. 8," Eide said.

## Neb. Deer Exchange Available Again In 2010

LINCOLN, Neb. — Hunters again will be able to provide deer meat to anyone willing to accept it, thanks to a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission program.

Nebraska has an ample deer population, as well as many hunting opportunities. The Deer Exchange is designed to accommodate the additional harvest of deer. Hunters who have filled their freezers may still bag a deer and have somewhere to take the meat.

Deer Exchange participants may register by visiting [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org), and then selecting Hunting, Programs, and then the Deer Exchange Program link.

Here is how the free program — which runs through March 1 — 2011, works: Donors and recipients of deer meat register, search a database for participants in their area, and then make contact by telephone to set up the transfer of deer meat. Deer meat may not be sold.

The recipient may accept field dressed deer, skinned and boned deer, or wrapped and frozen deer meat. The donor is responsible for properly field dressing and checking the deer before transfer.

Game and Parks is not responsible for the quality of the meat or failure of the donor or recipient to follow through with the transfer. The agency provides the necessary transfer cards online.

## Dove Hunters Should Report Leg Bands

LINCOLN, Neb. — Hunters should report any bands they find on the doves they shoot this fall, according to Jeff Lusk, upland game program manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Game and Parks is participating in a multistate dove leg banding study to help define relationships between dove harvest and population trends. Hunters can play a role in dove management by calling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Bird Banding Lab toll-free at (800) 327-2263 or visiting [reportband.gov](http://reportband.gov) to report any band they recover. Hunters should provide the number of the band and the location and date it was recovered.

The dove season continues through Oct. 30.

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