

## OUTDOORS DIGEST

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

## 'Shoot For The Girls' Archery Tourney Oct. 10

"Shoot for the Girls" will be having a tournament at the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Complex on Wednesday, Oct. 10, running from 7-9 p.m.

Contestants will shoot from 18 meters (Vegas style). The target consists of four breast cancer ribbons, the white in the center of the ribbon's loop is worth 10 points and anywhere on the pink is 5 points, this includes a very small breast cancer ribbon in the "Shoot for the Girls" logo. There will be 10 rounds, for a total max score of 400 points. Each arrow should be shot at a different ribbon. Double scoring and certification by a range officer is required.

Shoot like a girl had so many families shoot last year, that they will offer more youth categories this year: Women's Division, Men's Division, Young Adults (15-17), Youth (12-14), and Cub (11 and under).

This tournament not only provides participants with an opportunity to compete on an International Level in a fun mail-in tournament, 100 percent of the profit will go to the NBCF. Register at [www.yanktonarcherycomplex.org](http://www.yanktonarcherycomplex.org) or in person at the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Complex, 800 Archery Lane, Yankton.

## Nielsen Fishing Tournament Oct. 27

CROFTON, Neb. — The fifth annual Brian Nielsen Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27, at Weigand Marina near Crofton, Neb.

There will be a raffle and auction to follow at C.J.'s At The Lake.

For more information or to register, contact Julie at 605-664-1072 or 605-665-9522.

## Homemade Living Weekend At Ponca SP Oct. 6-7

LINCOLN, Neb. — Visit Ponca State Park on Oct. 6-7 for the Homemade Living Weekend and Farmers Market, which focuses on the traditional skills and techniques of a small family farm or acreage.

There will be demonstrations in canning and preserving, bee keeping, organic and heirloom gardening, fiber arts, quilting, home-style foods and flour milling. Think homemade and home-grown from farm to table. Horse-drawn wagon rides and pioneer games also will be available.

Spend the autumn weekend camping at Ponca, enjoying the turning leaves. Spend time relaxing with a hike or fishing in the park pond.

A park entry permit is required. Contact the park for more information at 402-755-2284 or [ngpc.ponca@nebraska.gov](mailto:ngpc.ponca@nebraska.gov).

## Crow Season Opens Oct. 1

LINCOLN, Neb. — Crow hunting season opens in Nebraska on Oct. 1. The season runs through Nov. 15, and then reopens Jan. 20 through April 6.

Crows may be hunted statewide with any firearm or archery equipment, and electronic call may be used. There are no bag or possession limits.

Residents age 16 and above and all nonresidents are required to have a valid hunt permit. Habitat stamps and Harvest Information Program numbers are not required. Permits may be purchased at OutdoorNebraska.org.

Crows are most easily found in the morning on their roosting sights, where several hundred or more may roost in trees. They will begin to leave the roost in smaller groups, heading to feeding grounds, such as a picked cornfield or freshly hayed meadow, along a consistent flight path.

## More Waterfowl Seasons Open Oct. 6

LINCOLN, Neb. — More waterfowl hunting seasons are about to open in many parts of Nebraska. The following seasons open Oct. 6: dark goose in the East and North Central units, light goose statewide, white-fronted goose statewide, and duck and coot in zones 2 and 4.

The youth waterfowl season is Oct. 6-7 in Zone 1.

For more information on the seasons, read the 2012 Waterfowl Guide, which is available where permits are sold and at OutdoorNebraska.org. Use of nontoxic shot is required.

Residents age 16 and up and all nonresidents who hunt waterfowl in the state are required to have a valid Nebraska hunt permit, habitat stamp, waterfowl stamp and Harvest Information Program number. Hunters age 16 and up must have a federal duck stamp. Permits and stamps may be purchased at OutdoorNebraska.org or at Game and Parks offices. Duck stamps are available at U.S. post offices.

## Trout Unlimited Celebrates Stream Restorations

FARMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — Volunteers from Minnesota Trout Unlimited will plant native prairie grass on Friday to protect a newly restored section of the Twin Cities metro area's biggest trout stream, the Vermillion River in Dakota County.

The nonprofit conservation group has funded work to rebuild the banks of the Vermillion River, which were washing away, and to create places for fish to hide.

On Saturday, the group will celebrate its recent restoration of two miles of Hay Creek in an area near Red Wing where 16 inches of rain fell in two days this summer, uprooting trees and washing away stream banks.

Making our way from Zippel Bay onto Lake of the Woods, once again, I was amazed at not only the size of the lake, but everything I was seeing around me.

The lake, located in northern Minnesota along the Minnesota-Canada border, is 69 miles long, 59 miles wide, with a depth of 210 feet. On this lake there are more than 14,552 islands, 65,000 miles of shoreline and 1,679 sq mi of surface water, making it the 6th largest lake in the United States.

We were there at the time of the year when temperatures were beginning to cool, fish were on the bite and the bugs weren't as the fall colors were just beginning to appear. A beautiful time of the year to be in northern Minnesota and a great time to be enjoying the outdoors.

Once again, we'd be fishing out of Zippel Bay Resort, located north of Williams, Minn. ([www.zippelbay.com](http://www.zippelbay.com)), a place we'd traveled to numerous times before and on each trip, had the opportunity to see things that could only be seen in this, the north country of Minnesota; with it's huge expanse of the northwoods, pristine water, hundreds of pairs of bald eagles, thousands of Minnesota's state bird, the loon along with unbelievable fishing.

On other of our trips, we'd fished off the 32-foot charter bots while on others it would be from a Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member's boat. We'd been there during all four seasons and during each of them, taken good numbers of walleyes.

On this trip, we'd be fishing with Nick Painovich, who along with his wife Deanna own and operate Zippel Bay Resort as well as one of his Captains, Brian Cole who skippers one of the resorts 5 large charter boats.

Working our way out of the bay, it was obvious we'd have a heavy "walleye chop" as the winds were predicted to blow up to 25 miles per hour, which wouldn't be a problem for us as our 32' boat had plenty



PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES  
**Captain Brian Cole (left), Nick Painovich (center) and columnist Gary Howey display a few of the walleyes taken during a short fishing trip on Lake of the Woods out of Zippel Bay Resort.**

of room and all the comforts of home.

We would be targeting several of the flats and rock humps known that held fish throughout the year, no matter what the season.

Our plan would be to give several different methods a try, including bottom bouncers/slip sinkers and spinners, jigs along with some trolling crankbaits.

Nick maneuvered the boat down wind as we rigged for our first drift where we'd be using Lindy Red Devil three hook spinners rigged behind a new product, the "Wing-it Quick Snap Sinkers" an ingenious product allowing anglers to quickly attach a slip sinker or bottom bouncer or change weights without cutting their line or wasting time retying.

We'd be drifting across the flat, with spinners rigged with crawlers, shiners and fatheads. It didn't take long for us to realize our crawler rigs were going to work well as on our first drift our cameraman, Riley tied into the first fish, the big fish of the day, a fat 22" inch walleye, a nice way to start the day. It didn't take long before the rest of us started taking fish, with the majority of these being 17

plus inch walleyes along with a few of the smaller sauger.

As the bite slowed we decided to move off the flat, to a spot on the lake where the rock piles had been reported to be holding good schools of fish.

Nick anchored over the area, where we'd tie on jigs tipped with fatheads. Once anchored the wind would move us from side to side, allowing us to cover large areas of the rock-strewn reef to search for the active walleyes.

I've always been a fan of multi-colored jigs as I feel on a certain day fish are attracted to a particular color and then for no rhyme or reason they'll switch to another color. With multiple colors down there, chances are one of these would be the color of the day, allowing me to catch fish without having to take the time to change lure colors.

Keeping a tight line, I released line and as my jig descended towards the bottom, I bounced it once, twice and as it was about to come to rest on the bottom, I felt additional weight and set the hook hard.

As I worked the fish out of the rocks, Nick worked the net over the side and as

the walleye popped to the surface, he slid the net under another chunky LOTW walleye.

It didn't take long before Nick, Brian and I were all bringing fish into the boat, which lasted well after noon and as the bite slowed, Nick suggested for the last hour of the trip, we give trolling crankbaits a try for some larger fish.

I was all for it and it didn't take me long to put away my jigging rod and get ready to do some cranking along the shoreline.

Arriving on site, Nick readied the rods as Brian swung the downriggers into position. Each of our rods were rigged with different baits, giving the fish the opportunity to tell us what they wanted, which didn't take long as our first two fish came on the Lindy River Rocker.

Without hesitation, all downriggers were brought up and stowed, other baits removed, and River Rockers attached and lowered back down. On our first couple of passes, we landed several nice fish, allowing us to finish up our trip with a beautiful limit of fish.

As we made our way off the lake into Zippel Bay, I thought about our day on the water where, in a few short hours, during one of the most beautiful times of the year fishing on one of the largest lakes in North America, we were able to catch our limit of fish, running from 17" to 22" while using three different presentations.

Some of our catch would be frozen and taken home to enjoy, while the others would be prepared for our evening supper by the staff, making for a perfect ending to another perfect day on Lake of the Woods.

If you haven't had the opportunity to experience Lake of the Woods, it's a truly great destination, unlike no other in the United States and one that you won't soon forget.

*Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, hunting and fishing guide. His award winning television series Outdoorsmen Adventures can be seen through out the upper Midwest on Fox affiliates. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the Outdoor Adventures radio program on KVHT 106.3 FM and ESPN Radio 1570 AM Monday-Friday. For more information on the shows and the outdoors, check ou [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).*

# NFL: Lions, Vikings Off To Surprising Starts So Far

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Lions seem to be falling short of expectations so far.

They barely beat the St. Louis Rams, lost at San Francisco by 12 and dropped a second straight game by giving up 44 points to Tennessee.

This isn't what was envisioned for a team coming off a rare playoff appearance, with Matthew Stafford and Calvin Johnson budding into a dynamic duo that is tough to stop, and a defense with a solid front seven.

The Lions (1-2) are highly motivated to beat the surprising Minnesota Vikings (2-1) on Sunday because a .500 record would be much better than the alternative, their first three-game losing streak since 2010, going into a bye week.

"There should be a sense of urgency, definitely in this one," Johnson said. "The worst thing for a competitor is to lose and not being able to come back ASAP and re-prove himself on the field again."

Minnesota, meanwhile, wants to prove it can win a NFC North game for a change.

The Vikings have lost 11 straight within the division since beating Detroit on Sept. 26, 2010, and are tied with Cleveland for the longest active intradivision losing streak.

The skid, which includes three straight losses to Detroit, is something the Vikings are well aware of heading to r Motor City.

"We have to get a lot better in our divisional matchups and do that this year," quarterback Christian Ponder said.

If last week's game was any indication of what's to come, Minnesota might be tough to knock out of first place in the NFC North after entering the season as an afterthought behind Green Bay, Chicago and Detroit.

"I like being the underdogs and I like to be overlooked because when you hit somebody in their mouth, their eyes open then," Vikings running back Adrian Peterson said.

Does Peterson think the Vikings punched San Francisco in the mouth in an eyebrow-raising 24-13 victory?

"Yeah, you watched the



Ponder

game," Peterson said. "We came out and threw the first punch and kept throwing them."

If the Vikings can get ahead of Detroit, which has scored 25 points in first halves and 62 after halftime in three games, they won't let up after a disheartening loss in Week 3 last season. Minnesota led the Lions by 20 at halftime and lost 26-23 in overtime.

In Detroit, the Vikings lost by six after rallying from a 21-point, third-quarter deficit.

"We know how the games ended last year so, of course, we're going to come in and return a favor," Peterson said.

Minnesota wasn't a favorite in the division in large part because Peterson was coming off of major knee surgery and there were questions whether Ponder, a second-year QB, was ready to take the next step.

Peterson's torn anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament in his left knee were repaired nine months ago. And he seemed ahead of everybody's schedule other than the

one he had for himself when he was ready to play in Week 1.

"I wasn't surprised," he said. "It was a goal that I had set out for myself."

Peterson, who has 230 yards rushing and two touchdowns, has been healthy and durable enough to averaged nearly 20 carries a game. He ran for 100-plus yards five times in his first seven matchups against the Lions, but was limited to just 31 and 78 yards rushing in his last two against them.

Detroit, though, isn't getting cocky about its chances of containing Peterson again.

"I don't know that if you can ever really hold that guy in check," Lions coach Jim Schwartz said. "He's one play away from going the distance. I know in the past, there have been times that we've had him bottled up and then he broke off a long run."

The Lions will be without one of their best run-stoppers, losing veteran defensive tackle Corey Williams indefinitely because he needed knee surgery a few days

after the loss to Tennessee.

They will, however, have Stafford against Minnesota barring a surprising setback following a scare.

Stafford left last week's game against the Titans with an injured right hip, which he hurt a few days earlier in practice, but he was healthy enough to practice Thursday. He hasn't followed up his breakout season very well — throwing just three TDs and four interceptions — and yet Minnesota saw what he was capable of in the last two meetings. Stafford completed nearly 70 percent of his passes for 600-plus yards with four TDs and no interceptions against the Vikings.

Stafford was listed as probable Friday.

"Matthew has such a strong arm and makes so many plays down the field with that strong arm and his accuracy, his mobility," Minnesota coach Leslie Frazier said. "He does a lot of good things, evidenced by what happened a season ago."

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