

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

# Aerial Acrobats On The 'Jim'

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

We were slowly working our way from the Missouri River, working our way through the shallows, the snags and sandbars leading to the mouth of the Jim River, when the first signs of the flying Carp we'd heard so much about started to appear.

A quarter mile from the mouth of the Jim the first barrage began, as dozens of fish exploded out of the water and into the air. No matter where you looked, Silver Carp were flying in every direction, bouncing off the sides of the boat, off us and into the boat. We hadn't knocked an arrow and all ready had five fish in the box.

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Marlyn Wiebelhaus, of Wynot, Neb., Branson Tolliver of Wagner, myself and intern Kella Rodiek were on our way to film one of our Outdoorsmen Adventures television shows on the Silver carp, "Flying Carp" in the Jim River in Southeast South Dakota.

Branson, a sophomore at South Dakota State in Brookings, had spent some time job shadowing in our office and joined us on an earlier bowfishing show four years earlier where we'd filmed below Gavin's Point Dam and had agreed to join us again for our assault on the Jim River.

Connecting with a fish coming out of the water in every direction, staying in the air but a few seconds isn't easy.

According to Wiebelhaus who has taken his share of Silver Carp, "You need to shoot where you think they're going to be, not where they were when you first see them."

When bowfishing for flying Carp, you need to be a good shot, but you also need to have a little luck on your side.

This is where a recurve bow like Wiebelhaus shoots is the best tool for the job as unlike a compound bow which needs to be pulled to full draw before you can release an arrow, a recurve allows the archer to snap shoot, getting the shot off



Gary  
**HOWEY**



Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Marlyn Wiebelhaus (standing) of Wynot, Neb. takes aim at Silver Carp flying out of the James River while columnist Gary Howey does his best to keep from being hit by the fish landing in the boat.

PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES

quickly.

Marlyn does get his shot off quickly as he spends every minute of his spare time out on the river and when not there is on other bodies of water competing in bowfishing tournaments and has won several bowfishing tournaments throughout the years.

If those fish we saw before arriving in the Jim were any indicator, this was going to be a good shoot.

Marlyn is an unbelievable shot with a bow and arrow has and still holds archery state bowfishing records for rough fish and game fish in both Nebraska and South Dakota.

On previous shows Marlyn did with us, he took a 70 pound paddlefish with his bow and also set the Nebraska smallmouth bass state archery record, arrowing one weighing 3 lbs. 5 oz.

The Jim River, our destination has a huge population of Silver Carp and one of several bodies of water Marlyn bowfishes. On the Jim in 2009, he set the South Dakota bowfishing state record when he arrowed a 22 pound 10 ounce Silver Carp.

I couldn't imagine what it would be like to have a fish that big hit you while going down the river.

Silver Carp are one of several Asian Carp invasive species that have invaded our waters spreading up the Missouri, into other rivers and their tributaries and now have found their way into ten states.

The fish were imported and stocked for phytoplankton control on small bodies of water. It was a private fish farmer in Arkansas in 1973 who imported the first Silver Carp into the United States.

When startled, Silver Carp will go airborne, going high into the air, creating dangerous conditions for boaters and jet skiers.

Sticking a fish, which suddenly appears over the water, leaping six feet or higher into the air, is no easy task, giving the archer but a second to react.

As we headed into the Jim River, Marlyn was running the boat and shooting out of the right side and back while Branson would be covering the left side and back with Kella and me running the cameras.

We were seeing a lot of fish he fish, but not in the numbers we'd seen during our last trip as they were spread out more, with some coming up on both sides of the boat, a few in the rear of the boat, many of them going airborne way

behind the boat, out to far for a decent shot.

Anyone who's ran a boat in an area where Silver Carp inhabit, has been hit by one or even several of these flying fish.

Marlyn took one upside the head while guiding a group of bow fishermen. While standing up, running the motor, allowing his clients to do the shooting, a big Silver came up, hit him between the eyes, breaking his sunglasses and knocking him to the floor.

It was fortunate his hand was on the throttle and when thrown backwards by the force of the fish hitting him, when he fell, he pulled the throttle into neutral.

To allow Marlyn to get some good shots, I took over control of the boat and did my best to keep from becoming a target for these flying fish.

We all had to stay alert, as fish were banging against both sides of the boat as well as landing in the boat. A loud scream was heard when Kella, who had left the front platform of the boat to grab a new battery for her camera, had a big Silver fly into the boat, banging her on the leg.

Another connected with my

hand that was on the throttle and one hit me on the leg, while both Marlyn and Branson looked like they were doing a dance, trying to avoid being hit by those fish flying coming into the boat.

Even though we were getting soaking wet, we were having fun, amazed by the number of fish soaring into and around the boat, as we did our best to avoid getting hit, while Marlyn and Branson were doing their best to shoot the fish out of the air.

Friends of mine who do a lot of bow fishing tell me that the meat of the Silver Carp is white and very firm and when scored, makes for some excellent eating.

To score a fish, you cut along the side of the fish down to the backbone about every ¼" or so, which allows the hot oil to get down and eliminate any small bones the fish may have.

Others cut them up, freeze them, using them for raccoon bait during the trapping season.

Marlyn and Branson were able to connect on six fish in the air while another twenty-eight decided to go along for the ride, those that landed in the boat.

It's one of those things I think everyone should see at least once and if you're able to shoot a few out of the air, they're a few we won't have to put up with down the road.

I you'd like information on bowfishing for rough and paddlefish or bow hunting for turkey or deer, give Marlyn a call at 402-357-2389 or look him up on the web at [www.wiebelhausguiding.com](http://www.wiebelhausguiding.com).

*Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He's the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which can be seen at 6:30 am Saturday on KTTM/KTTW-TV, Fox Sioux Falls/Huron, S.D. The series is seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. In Yankton it can be seen on channels 2 & 98 at 6:30 pm Saturday and 7:00 am Sunday. 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're looking for more outdoor information, check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com) and like Outdoorsmen Adventures on Facebook.*

## OUTDOORS DIGEST

### SD Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit celebrates its 50th anniversary Sept. 18.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wildlife Management Institute and South Dakota State University formed the nation's 22nd unit in 1963 in Brookings. By comparison, Minnesota's unit was formed in 1987 and Nebraska's unit was created in 2004. Overall, there currently are 40 Cooperative Research Units in 38 states.

The unit started as a Wildlife Research Unit in 1963 and then added a Fisheries Research Unit in 1965. They combined in 1984, creating the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit now headed by Steven Chipps who has served as Unit Leader since 2010.

Chipps and colleagues Josh Stafford and Larry Gigliotti teach six graduate courses in the Department of Natural Resource Management. SDSU's CRU has graduated approximately 250 students, earning master's or doctorate in philosophy degrees.

The CRU's recent projects range from pallid sturgeon ecology to harvest regulations on lake trout and northern pike in Pactola Reservoir to wetland and grassland ecosystems.

South Dakota CRU's graduate students conduct research by studying a wide range of natural resource problems. The Unit is housed in SDSU's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences where it shares a large supply of field equipment and on/off-campus laboratory facilities. The U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Resources Observation Systems Data Center, and the recently established Geospatial Science Center of Excellence at SDSU, provide unique resources and collaborative opportunities for the South Dakota CRU.

### Perkins County Deer Licenses Adjusted

PIERRE — The Game, Fish and Parks Department has been monitoring die-offs of white-tailed deer in northwestern South Dakota, centered in northern

Perkins County, and will now reduce the number of licenses available in the affected area.

The deer die-offs have been linked to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), which also caused deer die-offs early last fall in many parts of the state.

GFP is taking action to adjust the number of deer hunting licenses available in the affected area, and as a result 41 unsold two-tag antlerless white-tailed deer licenses will be eliminated from Perkins County north of South Dakota Highway 20 issued as West River Deer hunting unit 53A-19.

### Lincoln Workshop Set For Small Game Hunters

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Game and Parks has scheduled a Lincoln workshop for hunters of small game.

The workshop is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 11 at the Lincoln Izaak Walton League Clubhouse and Range. The Game and Parks Commission's Hunter Education team will discuss small-game opportunities, hunting techniques, equipment and calling.

The workshop will be preceded by a rimfire rifle sight-in at 6 p.m. Participants must bring their own firearms and ammunition.

Space is limited. Go online at [HuntSafeNebraska.com](http://HuntSafeNebraska.com) to register.

The Izaak Walton League facility sits a half-mile south of Nebraska Highway 2 on 134th Street.

### Nebraska Holding Lottery For Deer Hunters

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A lottery is being held for deer hunting access to Platte River Recreation Access lands in the central Platte River Valley.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission says 38 hunters will be chosen from a drawing in early October. They'll be allowed to hunt deer on designated lands Nov. 16-24.

Applications, limited to one per person, will be accepted by mail or in person at the Game and Parks service center in Kearney from Sunday through 5 p.m. on Sept. 30. Hunters can apply to hunt three areas but will receive permission on only one area if their names are drawn.

More information can be obtained at [platteaccess.org](http://platteaccess.org), by calling 308-865-5338.

## Hunter Takes Individualized Approach To Training Dogs

BY ANGELO STAMBENE

(c) 2013 The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — By age 18, Ben Garcia was hooked.

"I bought a Lab in college (when) I was going to school in Greeley and started duck hunting," Garcia said. "That's how the whole thing happened, pure addiction."

That addiction has made him a rising star in breeding and training a variety of bird hunting dogs right here in Colorado. Garcia, from Longmont, trains both pointers and flushers in Calhan, and has been refining his training techniques for 16 years.

Whether a hunter uses a pointer or a flusher depends on individual preference, but training the dogs well is where Garcia comes in. Pointing dogs walk around until they get the scent of a bird. When that happens, they will stop and point with their snout, holding position until the hunter makes his move. Flushers, on the hand, run in tight circles, attempting to spook the birds into flying so that hunters can take a shot. Both types of dogs will track the downed bird and softly carry it back in their mouth.

"We have 12 weeks to make an impression on 15 years of life" says Garcia, and his training is highly individual. Garcia takes out one dog at a time, leaving about 10 others on a chain that Garcia refers to as "the chain gang." Being on the chain teaches the dogs to be calm and patient while Garcia takes other dogs in the field.

Using a whistle, hand signals and voice commands, Garcia controls how far the flushers run ahead and he directs them to find birds that have been intentionally scattered in the area. Pointers, by contrast, are on a long leash that gets the dogs used to running a specific distance ahead of the hunter.

Getting a dog whose parents were hunters is key, and genetics are a big deal to Garcia. "What I look for in a breeding dog is what the breeders have decided are genetically the best parents: One that doesn't pace, one that's calm on its game, calm in the kennel and calm being in the house."

Training dogs with those good traits is all about repetition, and sometimes breaking learned behaviors. One of the hardest things about training "is when owners have taught them behaviors that go against what hunting is. If we have a dog that's been taught to play tug of war and then you shoot a rooster, you go to get it out of their mouth and they want to play tug of war with the rooster."

Getting dogs used to the hunter shooting is something Garcia also works on. "The old theory of taking them to the gun range and shooting over them and then they'll be gun-broken isn't true," he said. "Their genetics is to hunt, not have a gun shot over them."

Garcia is a fan of all breeds that he has trained over the years, and he has a hard time picking a favorite. If there is one that can do it all, though, he thinks it's Labrador retrievers.

## TROPHY SPOTLIGHT

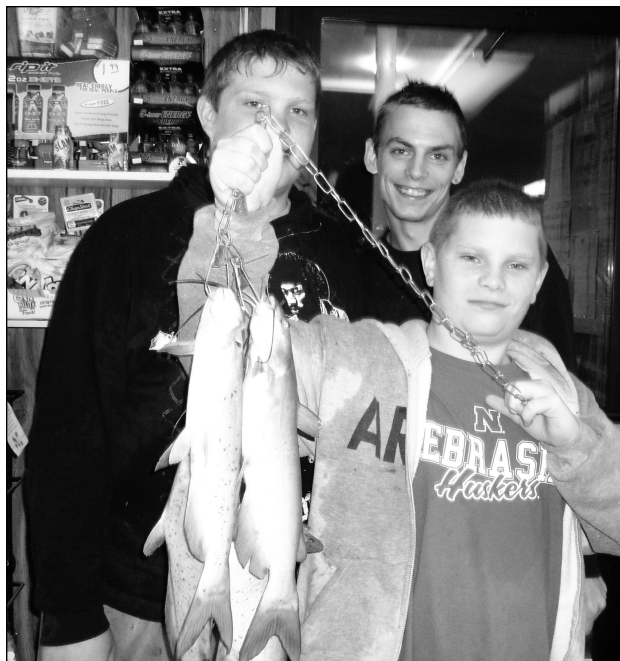


PHOTO: CAPTAIN NORM'S

Christian McCoy, right, caught these catfish off the wall using prepared baits and crawlers.

## Hunters Helping The Hungry To Accept Donations Starting Sept. 15

LINCOLN, Neb. — Hunters may begin donating their deer to the Hunters Helping the Hungry program Sept. 15. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has contracted with meat processors that may accept the donated deer.

Hunters Helping the Hungry combines cash donations and donated deer to produce ground venison that is distributed to Nebraskans in need. Game and Parks, not hunters, pays processing costs. Processors will accept only the deer that can yield a good volume of pure ground venison.

Hunters Helping the Hungry funds will pay to process up to 300 deer this year. Participating processor quotas may be increased if additional cash and/or deer donations are received.

Hunters and nonhunters may make cash donations to help fund the program, which uses no permit or tax dollars. They may make a donation while purchasing a

deer permit over the counter at a Game and Parks permitting office or at OutdoorNebraska.org.

The participating Hunters Helping the Hungry meat processors, subject to change, are: Amherst — Belschner Custom Meats Inc.; Bayard — Bayard Processing; Bridgeport — KDK Meats, LLC; Broken Bow — Broken Bow Pack; Diller — C & C Processing; Elwood — SteakMaster Inc.; Humphrey — Country Butcher; Johnson — Pelican's Meat Processing; Lindsay — Melcher's Locker; North Bend — Bob's Custom Meats LLC; North Platte — Kelley's Custom Pack; Oakland — Oakland Processing; Omaha — B. I. G. Meats Inc.; Stoyisch House of Sausage; Orleans — Harlan County Meat Processors; Oxford — Oxford Locker, Inc.; Panama — Panama Locker; Ralston — Van Fleet Meats; Table Rock — Den's Country Meats; Ulysses — Butchery; Wahoo — Wahoo Locker.

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