

Of The Outdoors

Hard water fishing on Lake of the Woods

BY GARY HOWEY

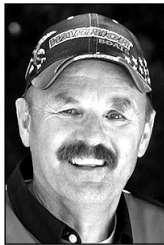
Hartington, Neb.

A couple of times each year, we head north to do some fishing on Lake of the Woods, once during the summer and again during the winter.

If you've never been up north, it's quite a treat as it's big water where there are hundreds and hundreds of icehouses on the ice, every size, shape and variety.

As a matter of fact, this year, the Zippel Bay Igloo made its appearance on the ice.

Resembling a large igloo, this large icehouse/bar is a big attraction as it has a full



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bar, big screen TV, tables and benches where you can not only eat a pizza, you have an opportunity to wet a line while enjoying your favorite drink.

The largest fish taken by anglers in the Igloo is a 48" northern that Desire, the young lady that runs the establishment took the first week in February.

Ice fishing is

extremely popular on Lake of the Woods, part of the reason being that in the winter you're allowed to use two rods and the limit for walleye and sauger is raised to eight (4 walleyes and 4 sauger).

Walleyes are the larger cousin of the sauger, reaching over 10 pounds with the average size probably being in the 2 to 4 pound class.

Walleyes are identified by their greenish gold color along with the white tip on their lower tail fin.

Sauger on the other hand are much more streamlined and more aggressive than walleyes. Primarily a river fish, the average size for sauger would be 1 to 2 pounds with a fish over 3-pounds being a real trophy.

Getting on Lake of the Woods out of Zippel Bay is easy as ice roads are plowed out onto the 30" of ice, allowing fishermen easy access to their houses. Streets are all marked with street signs such as Perch, Big Fish and Walleye, making it easy for anglers to get to the right spot.

On this trip, we were filming with Nick and Deanna at Zippel Bay Resort. Joining us were Team Outdoorsmen Adventures members Larry Myhre (Sioux City, Iowa) and Jon Thelen (Crystal, Minn.).

Our plan was to start shallow in the morning, working deep during the day and then back shallow for the last light bite.

A cold front had rolled in the night before, which generally shuts the fish down or at least makes them a harder to catch so we knew that it could be a tough bite.

To combat the cold front, we went to live bait, (small hook, split

shot and micro bobber) while downsizing our presentation using baits like the 3/16th Lindy Frostee Jigging Spoons.

We were using fat head minnows, going with the smaller minnows the majority of the time.

When using the jigging spoon, a whole minnow may be too much for cold front fish, so we went with a partial minnow (minnow head) as this worked best for us.

Every once in awhile, we'd drop down a Lindy Darter which not only caught a few fish, it also attracted fish into the area as several times our locators would light up below the darter and then our livebait rigs would take a fish.

We were fishing in icehouses placed over rock and rubble, fishing the shallower water on the top early and late and as the sun got brighter moving off the edge into deeper water.

Since it was such a lite bite, we needed to keep our live bait rigs at a minimum, going with a small hook, lighter split shot and a bobber.

When fishing cold front conditions, you want you bobber to verily float on the top of the water so that the fish feel no resistance when they mouth your bait.

I like to use a very small slip bobber, one that is just visible in the ice hole.

If you've ever had a fish pull your bobber down part way and then let go, that's a pretty good indicator that your using too large of a float.

If all you have are the larger floats, you can add a larger split shot so that the float will suspend deeper in the water



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Jon Thelen, of Crystal, Minn., poses one of the many walleyes they took while ice fishing out of Zippel Bay Resort on Lake of the Woods.

column.

A good locator is a must when ice fishing otherwise you're fishing blind as all species of fish will move up and down in the water column and can be found a few feet below the ice at times.

If you're fishing right off the bottom as many ice fishermen do and the fish are above you, you're in for a long day!

Locators will indicate when a fish comes in under your transducer, which allows you to either bring your bait up or drop it down putting your bait where the fish are.

We all caught some nice fish and a lot of the smaller more aggressive sauger, which is a good sign for the years to come, as there will be a tremendous catchable sauger population in years to come.

place to do some ice fishing yet this winter, Zippel Bay Resort will have icehouses out until the end of March.

We ended up taking home our eight fish limit on this trip and are patiently waiting for the soft water season when we'll make another trip to Lake of the Woods, the walleye capital of the world.

For more information on Zippel Bay Resort and the excellent fishing on Lake of the Woods, go to www.zippelbayresort.com.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler and hunting and fishing guide. His award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series can be seen on KTTM/KTTW-TV, Sioux Falls/Huron on Saturday @ 6:30 am and Sunday @ 7:00 am. For more outdoors information go to www.outdoors-

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TO BE OFFERED IN 3 OPTIONS

OPTION #1: Approximately 10-acre building site with beautiful ranch style home with a 26x28 attached 2 car garage, built in 1978 with 3000+ sq ft of living area. Main floor consists of kitchen with cabinets, electric range, side by side refrigerator, built in dishwasher & microwave; living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Home has a full finished basement with large family room, den with fireplace, 2-bedrooms, storage room, and a full bath. Home is equipped with central air, propane furnace, cement board siding, 500-gal LP tank, rural water and steel roof. Also there is a 10x32 deck. This is a very well kept home and acreage. Also included with this acreage is a 52x120x14 steel machine shed with partial concrete floor, 2 livestock barns and 2 shelters. NOTE: This is a very nice acreage that is located close to Wagner and only minutes from Fort Randall Dam.

TERMS on Option #1: \$10,000 non refundable down payment due day of auction with balance on closing of May 3, 2010. Possession on the acreage is June 1, 2010. Taxes will be prorated to June 1 on the building site. Correct legal and acres to be determined by survey if needed.

OPTION #2: Approximately 142 acres. This farm has 58 acres of row crop land that is under a 2010 lease at \$45 per acre. The remainder of the farm has approximately 40 acres of alfalfa with the balance into grassland, shelter belts & a stock dam. Possession on the balance of the land will be May 3, 2010 at closing. There is currently 2 acres into CRP trees with a payment of \$138 per year until 2018. New buyer must agree to finish out this contract. FSA Office shows a corn base of 51.6 acres with a CC yield of 87bu and a bean base of 37acres with a CC yield of 23bu. Predominant soil types included HmB and HoB. Cash rent payments on row crop are due on April 1, and October 1.

TERMS on Option #2: \$30,000 nonrefundable down payment due day of auction with balance due on closing of May 3, 2010.

OPTION #3: This will be a combination of Options 1 & 2. If the property is sold in its entirety, the non refundable down payment will be \$40,000 day of auction with balance due on closing of May 3, 2010. If sold as one unit, no survey will be provided. Seller will pay all the 2009 taxes. Title insurance and closing costs will be split 50/50 between buyer & seller. Lisa Rothschild, attorney is the closing agent. Auctioneers are acting as agents for the sellers.

NOTE: This is a much diversified farm that Greg & Susan have been striving to make into a great hunting habitat for pheasants, turkey, & whitefalls. If you are a sportsman, make sure you check this out. You are also only minutes from some of the best fishing in the state. Make plans to attend the open house or contact Cuka's at (605) 384-3278. A great property for recreation along with a yearly return on your investment. Visit GirardAuction.com to view several pictures and maps.

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