

OF THE OUTDOORS:

Now Is The Time To Catch Big Fish

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

This falls weather is hard to beat; temperatures have been unbelievable, allowing the farmers to get their crops out a lot earlier than usual.

All in all, it's been a strange year; last winter was a bad one, once it broke, there was plenty of rain and water coming down the Mo. River.

Higher water meant that the reservoirs on the river and the river directly below it would have a lot of water.

More water coming down the river and the tributaries leading into it meant that all the lakes/reservoirs would be high, and with the high water comes a lot of debris (weeds, logs, cattails etc.)

dirtying up the water and increasing the current coming down river.

Because of this the fishing in the lakes has been tough.

Since we've had very little rain over the last month or so, the water is starting to settle down just in time for the fall walleye bite.

As we all know, all species of fish pig out in the fall, piling on the pounds getting ready for the winter and next springs spawning run.

It's in the fall, when you'll want to offer the fish bigger baits such as creek chubs or shad, as that's what they need to put on the pounds in order to get ready for winter.

There are times, especially in the fall when even the smaller fish will pass

up smaller minnows and go after larger bait.

When using larger baits, you'll need to fish them differently as you never know what size fish will pick up your bait.

Jig fishing is one of the productive methods for taking walleyes/sauger in the late fall. We use the larger 3/8 oz. Lindy jigs as they have the larger hook needed to hold the larger baits and still have enough hook protruding to hook the fish.

I've always been one for putting as much color down there as possible, so I use jigs that are multi-colored, with more than one color down there, I feel that the multi-colored jigs the fish tell me what baits or color they prefer.

I've always used florescent colored as they hold their color longer in deep water.

Walleye and sauger are known to grab onto the rear of the bait and not getting the hook in their moth.

This is when you'll get a bite, set the hook and "Nothing". When you reel in your bait, you'll find that the bait is peeled back from the dorsal fin to the tail and this is when stinger

hooks come in handy. Stinger hooks are nothing fancy, just a piece of heavy monofilament or leader material with a treble hook attached at the end.

Stinger hooks used during the fall bite need to be just like the jigs you'd use, larger.

The small treble hooks that come with some jigs or can be bought separately are too small and the leader on them is too short, only reaching just in front of the larger baits back.

With large baits that are used in the fall, you need a stinger that will reach almost to the baits tail. That way, when the fish takes a hold of the tail, he's grabbing onto your stinger hook.

We have a buddy in town, Buckshot that's figured out how to make up the longer stinger hooks for the three amigos and I.

I furnished a roll of 20-pound leader material and the crimping pliers. He then purchased some black brass sleeves and the large red treble hooks needed to make the longer and larger stinger hooks we use when fishing larger baits.

If you're not using the

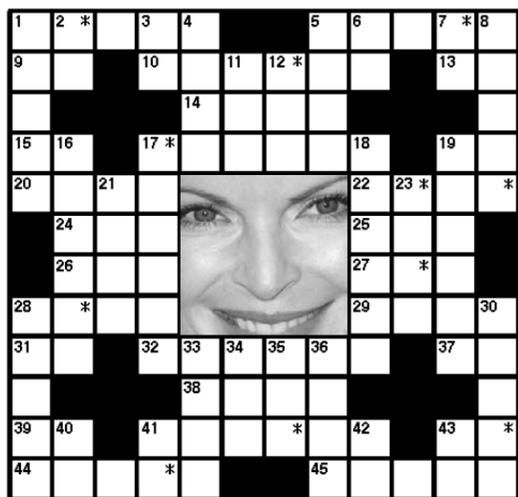


TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES PHOTO
Bob Schumacher (left) and Bill Christensen, of Hartington, Neb., are pictured with three of the fish they took last week while using jigs, trailer hooks and creek chubs on Lewis & Clark Lake.

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The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

ACROSS

- Dietzen of "NCIS"
- Shari or Jerry
- "Night ___ the Museum"; 2006 Ben Stiller movie
- Adventure series that ran for 17 seasons
- "Miracle at ___ Anna"; 2008 Derek Luke film
- ___ Winningham
- "Apollo ___"; 1995 Tom Hanks movie
- Detective Stella Bonasera's portrayer
- Ed Begley or Robert Downey: abbr.
- Actress Loughlin
- Dobbs and Gossett
- "The Thin ___ Line"; 1998 James Caviezel film
- MMX and others: abbr.
- "The ___ Couple"
- Cartoon morning: abbr.
- Environmental sci.
- Actor Ken
- Initials for Ms. Kidder
- Number of seasons for "Happy Days"
- "___ Time for Sergeants"
- "Resident ___: Extinction"; 2007 Ali Larter movie
- "The ___ Set"; 2006 Sigourney Weaver film
- Actor Robert & his family
- "___ Femme Nikita"
- "The Wonder ___"
- "American Idol" judge

DOWN

- Sir ___ Rathbone
- Initials for John Boy's portrayer



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