

## Of The Outdoors

# Hard water fishing on Lake of the Woods

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

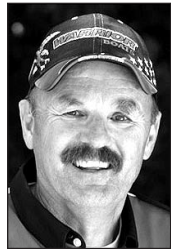
A couple of times each year, we head north to do some fishing on Lake of the Woods, once during the summer and again during the winter.

If you've never been up north, it's quite a treat as it's big water

where there are hundreds and hundreds of ice-houses 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



Gary Howey

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



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Zippel Bay's Igloo has been quite a hit since making its appearance this year on Lake of the Woods.



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

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

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 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.

If you're looking for a 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](http://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.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).

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**NOTICE**  
Norway Township Board of Equalization will meet **March 15, 2010** at 7:00 p.m. at the Clay County Highway Shop.  
Appeals must be submitted to the clerk by **Thursday, March 11, 2010.**  
Jay Bottolfson, Clerk  
45723 Timber Road, Vermillion, SD • 624-8249

**135.98 ACRES OF TILLABLE YANKTON COUNTY TURKEY VALLEY TOWNSHIP LAND AT AUCTION**

We will offer the following land at auction. This auction will be held at the Wieman Auction Facility (heated) located 1 south and 1/2 west of Marion, SD on

**Monday, March 29th • 10:30AM**

**TRACT #1: 96.98 ACRES OF TILLABLE LAND**  
**LEGAL DESC:** N 1/2 NE 1/4 & SE 1/4 NE 1/4 except Tract 1 of Vandekop Addition in Section 21-96-54, Yankton County, SD  
**LOCATION:** From Center Point, SD go 3 miles south on 448th Ave. then 3/4 mile east on 294th St., or from Pump N Stuff in Irene, SD go 3 miles north on 452nd Ave. then 3-1/4 miles west on 294th St

This is great producing 96.98 Acre tillable and the balance in waterways. The acreage has been surveyed out of this tract making this a great tillable tract with little waste and good drainage. This tract is gently rolling to rolling — with a productivity rating of 79. This tract was in corn in 2009 and in Irene-Wakonda School District with yearly taxes of \$1899.72 (that includes the Acreage that was surveyed out.)

**TRACT #2: 39 ACRES OF TILLABLE LAND**  
**LEGAL DESC:** SW 1/4 NW 1/4 in Section 22-94-54, Yankton County, SD  
**LOCATION:** Just east of Tract 1 on 449th Ave.

This 39 Acres currently has 34.47 acres tillable and the balance in waterways. The land is level to gently rolling and has a 3.16 acre waterway running thru the property. There was a large culvert installed in 2009 for access to the eastern portion of this tract. This is a Great Producing tract with a Productivity Index of 82. This tract was in corn in 2009 and is in the Irene-Wakonda School District with yearly taxes of \$584.82.

**Note:** If a land purchase is in your plans — please check out these 2 great tracts. For an information packet, please call our office at 800-251-3111. The owners farm and have purchased land right next to their farm in Iowa — that prompted the sale of these 2 tracts. The acreage is not included in this offering. Come prepared to buy! Check them out at anytime.

**TERMS:** Cash Sale with 15% Down payment (nonrefundable) on Sale Day and the balance on April 30, 2010 with full possession. Owners title insurance will be used (cost split between buyer-seller) and warranty title will be given. Seller to pay 2009 taxes due in 2010. Buyer to have full possession for the 2010 crop year. Sold subject to the owner's confirmation and any easement of record — Come prepared to buy!

**DALE W. AND MARELENE R VANDEKOP, OWNERS (Tract 1)**  
**WAYLON VANDEKOP, OWNER (Tract 2)**  
Rock Rapids, IA 712-470-4006

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