

## The Outdoors of Plenty

By Phil Trager

Bow fishermen are finding an abundance of "targets" Silver and Asian carp as well as traditional Buffalo and "Smallmouth" bugle boys are so

abundant that new bow fishermen are coming on the scene everyday. Not only are carp fished by looking in shallow backwaters, but also they are found by running the boat and motor in shallow, slow current. Motors bring these fish to the surface soaring above as exciting, jumping targets. Bow fishing tournaments are happening the same as any other tournament. And numerous recipes to prepare these huge fish for table fare are being offered. Among a number of folks, a resurgence of

the early 1800's has carp being "king". More info can be found at [illinoisoutdoors.com](http://illinoisoutdoors.com), in the Fishing Report forum.

"Abundance" can be used in reference to rain, garden vegetables, weeds and grass. What a green summer it has been. Tomatoes are coming off the vines almost daily. Likely the trend will continue into October. Canning will produce sauce for chili, spaghetti and many other tasty foods. Some trout and salmon dishes include the use of whole tomatoes.

And trout and salmon will continue hitting reasonably close to shore in Lake Michigan. Browns, kings and coho are ready for fall harvest. Charters are eager to fill the cooler for willing anglers. Often an Indiana and Illinois license will be required depending upon launch site and whatever water is fished in. It is not uncommon to launch in Indiana and fish in Illinois waters. In this case, an Illinois license is needed while fishing and when back in harbor, if fish are checked by game wardens, an Indiana license would do the trick. Also, trout/salmon stamp is necessary with the license. All are available on the Internet and at numerous bait shops along the way.

As weather cools, water in the River will do likewise. If water stays in abundance, very active fish in large schools have a better chance of showing up. An abundance of water triggers movement of fish upstream even in fall. Often white bass will head for deep holes used by sauger in winter. Then too, schools of shad will be herded and attacked by

this voracious feeder. Upstream from Henry near Lake Senechewine, near Shippingsport at the "snag hole" and all the way to the dam at Starved Rock will be areas to try. Whites and sauger seem to hold in these areas until late October and some years even into November.

Three-way rigs, vertical jigging and crank baits will be entertaining this fall as usual. Pink and white, blue and orange as well as chartreuse are usual colors. The front of wing dams, channel edges and water near the dams will hold feeders. Creek mouths will also provide food and/or oxygen to hold feeding fish.

Small jigs, say 1/32 oz. tipped with minnows and bobber rigs will find crappie and blue gill shallow around various structures such as brush and cement. Pitching jigs right into rip rap and slowly, tantalizingly pull the offering ever so slightly off the rocks while letting it fall to be engulfed. What an active, yet fun way to fish.

And catfish too will be found from an anchored boat. Bait is tossed out and a frenzy is soon to follow. Shrimp, shad, minnows, dip bait and other favorites are likely to spark some action on island points and shallow gravel that has deeper water near by. If the river has enough water in it, natural eddies will form. Eddies are excellent fish - holders later in the year.

And finally, "abundance" can be used in terms of squirrels, dove and upcoming seasons of deer and geese. Participation and preparation by hunters has a large share of September fun.



The **ILLINOIS BOWFISHERS** Carpbusters tournament was held on Clinton Lake July 29-30. 1st place team, Sam Wood & James Powless shot 215 fish for \$1000.

2nd place team,

Jeremy Leu, Larry Sims & Brian Ball took out 173 fish for \$240.

An amazing total of 1094 (or about 2.5 tons) destructive, exotic, invasive fish were removed from Clinton Lake. Way-To-Go!

Thanks to Larry & Linda Dozard for sharing the great photo with us! [Larrysfishinghole.com](http://Larrysfishinghole.com)

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