

Archery Can Mean ... Extended Seasons For Outdoorsmen

For the bow hunter or fisherman who finds himself succumbing to the seasonal malady of "cabin fever" because big game is out of season and fish'n isn't what it ought to be, there's a remedy: Go bowfishing.

It's easy and inexpensive but there's a problem. It's a habit-forming sport. Many times the inspired fisherman has found himself leaving rods and reels home in favor of standing in the bow of a light boat with bow and barbed arrow.

And for bowfishing, before the hunt comes the equipment and for the potential bowfisherman already in possession of a hunting bow, he can outfit himself for under a \$15 bill.

The basic needed tackle goes like this:

A BOW REEL, equipped with at least 50 feet of strong nylon line. The bow reel or spin-cast reel should be easily mounted to the bow and have a spring wire line holder to prevent line from playing out too soon when aiming at sharp downward angles. A 35-40 lb. test line is commonly used for smaller fish but upwards of 70-100 lb. test should be used for larger species.

BOWFISHING ARROWS are made of solid fiberglass and equipped with rubber fletching (feathers). These special arrows are recommended for a couple of important reasons: first, even a small fish will roll and thrash when struck and can easily break a wooden or other light shaft material. Second, the added weight of the solid arrow offers greater accuracy and penetration when shooting into depths of up to 15 feet of water.

THE ARROW POINT is usually a single barb point to enhance maximum penetration. Some bowfishermen, however, go to a heavy-headed single barb or double barb in order to hold heavier fish.

Now that you're equipped you're ready to go bowfishing, and the places you should be spending your

time fall into the general categories of streams, marshes and the shallow back bays of larger lakes and reservoirs.

A quick check with your state game and fish department will tell you what kind of fish are available in your area for bowfishing but the most popular species on a national basis are carp and suckers. In the southern states various species of gar are sought.

You're standing in the bow of the boat and now if you haven't already learned — polarizing lens sunglasses will help cut the glare of the water and let you see down into the depth in excess of 25 ft. when conditions are right.

Because you are looking down, your underwater view is affected by light refraction. When viewed from an angle your target is always somewhat lower than it appears to be, so: **AIM LOW!** Only experience (hits and misses) can teach you to relate depth and angle.



Bowfishing — a sport that's easy to learn and fun to do.

If you're interested in starting this fun-time sport — or improving a beginning skill — write for a free copy of "Tips On Successful Bow Fishing," Dept. CO, Ben Pearson Archery, P.O. Box 270, Tulsa, Okla. 74101.

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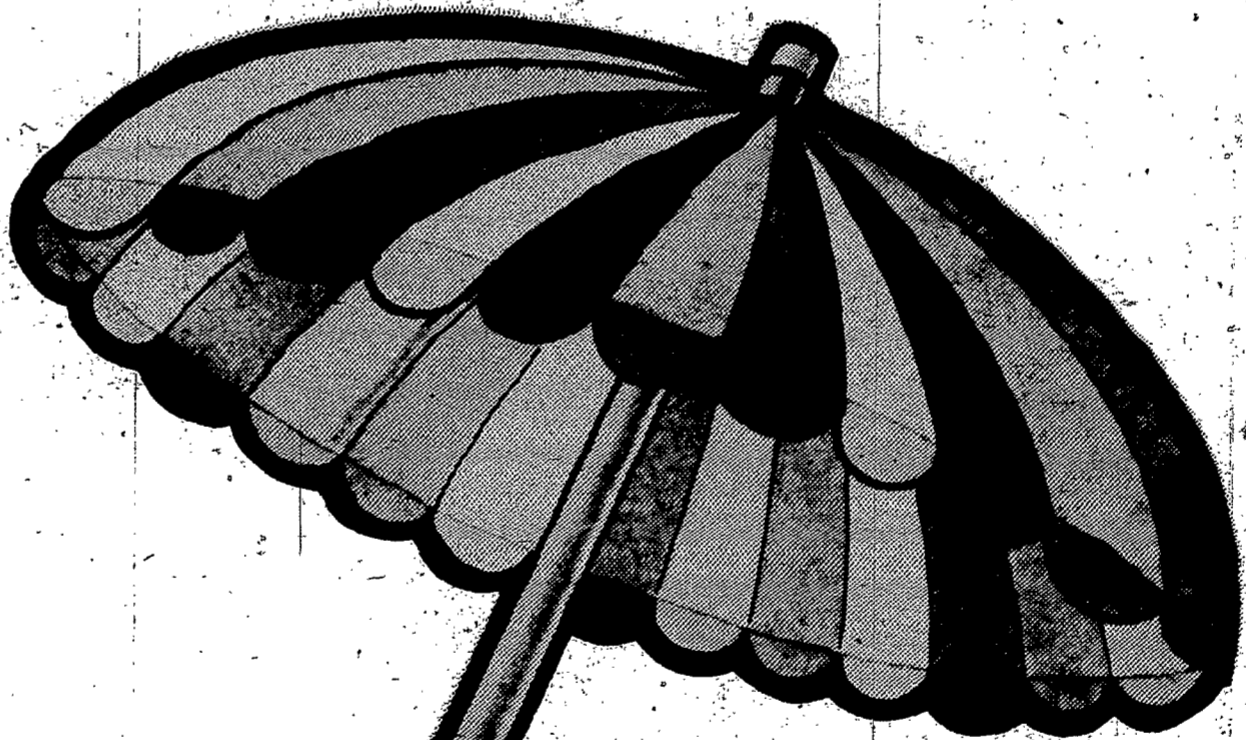
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