

Crayfish Tales
by
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SWEDES AND THEIR CRAYFISH
CRAYFISH IN THEM THAR HILLS
CATCH YOUR OWN CRAYFISH

478 words

Many Swedish immigrants came to the US with a native love for crayfish. But very few of them realized that every state in this country also has lakes with crayfish in them. All it takes is to catch them.

Shortly after I arrived in Arizona, I found that most lakes here were teeming with crayfish. And they looked just like the ones I had loved in Sweden. Soon I was camping all over the state in search of my favorite festive food, crayfish. I found them in the north around Flagstaff. I found them in the south around Tucson. But most of all, I found them on the Indian reservations. Both on the Navajo and the Apache reservations I found lakes full of crayfish. The fact that Indians don't care for crayfish may have kept them so bountiful.

On summer vacations our kids and I caught crayfish by the simple pole-string-and-bait method. We walked along the shores of a lake, preferably at night, and with a flash light we spotted, and sometimes, caught them by the hundreds. Our kids had a ball and so did I. But most of all, I enjoyed being able to once more enjoy the Swedish national dish of crayfish. Many times, the evening before going home again after a camping trip, I gorged myself with a heaping plate of red shelled crayfish.

Soon I decided that I could increase my crayfish catch with traps. Some of them were imported from Sweden, but some I designed and manufactured myself. The first time I found crayfish in an Arizona lake, I had nothing to catch them with. But necessity is the mother of invention, and soon my steel mesh fish basket was doing duty as a crayfish trap. Later I made several much improved versions, and now my traps have caught thousands of crayfish.

For thirty years I used to go up to the Arizona mountain lakes and

catch my annual supply of crayfish, which, cooked and frozen, last through the winter months. But after thirty years I also retired and moved up to the green pastures of Payson, Arizona. Here I rekindled my interest in catching crayfish. I decided to import Swedish traps as well as make my own traps and offer them for sale to the increasing group of crayfish lovers in all of the US.

For those who would like to learn more about crayfish and how to catch them and eat them, I have designed a web page on the Internet that tells everything you want to know about crayfish. If you want to catch your own crayfish, I offer three types of crayfish traps and crayfish knives for the crayfish parties that usually follow. Take a look at WWW.TrapperArne.com, and if you like what you see, drop me a line.

Trapper Arne wishes you good catching and eating.

The end

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