



Wow! What a Start To The Season!

Snowy Opener Proves Great For 2007's Early Anglers

Trophy Pike at Whitewater, and Ogoki Lakes. Big Brookies from the Albany River Area.

The big pike were biting despite temperatures in the mid thirties, snowy skies and moody winds. Just ask Roger Faulkner of Crossville, Tennessee who slipped his boat into Goldsborough bay on



Whitewater Lake to get out of the wind last Tuesday. Next thing he knew he was slipping this 45 inch 30 pound pike into his landing cradle. Roger and his son, Rich Rapean, drive up every year for the opener and this year was Roger's year to become a Wilderness North Master Angler .

Every year we award the Master Angler pin to those anglers who catch and release Northern Pike 40 or more inches in length and walleye 26 inches and over. **Jim Butcher** (Last year's biggest pike in Ontario Angler of the year) caught and released a 40.5 last week at Ogoki Lake. **Jim Mouch** of Oxford, Michigan registered a 45 from Whitewater. **Steven Cadle**, and **Dennis Davis** of Shelby Township, Michigan each had a 40 from Ogoki Lake. **Mark Sopko**, of LaPorte, Indiana reeled in a 41 while at Ogoki Lake, and **Robert Deel** of Jansant, Virginia and **Fred Millard** of Oxford, Michigan -both guests at Whitewater - had a 41 and 43 incher.

The lures of choice? Well...(Drum Roll please)...Rapala crankbaits - shallow or deep diving- were responsible for all but two of these opening week trophies. The other two? One was caught on a Johnson Silver Minnow (gold), and one on a jig and tail while fishing for Walleye.

Scott Scores Big

Scott Earl Smith, Canadian Editor for Fly Fish America, spent a few days at our Miminiska Lodge on the Albany and took a fly out trip to the Keezhik River. The ten minute flight to the head waters of this fast moving river was just the beginning of what Scott called, "*The best day of Brook Trout fishing ever.*" And that's saying something!

Scott has fished all over Canada, and he guides on the the famous Nipigon River, home to the world record Brook Trout. Scott and four other fly fishing anglers will host the August 27-30 Fly Fishing School and Adventure. [click here](#) for more info.



SO WHAT ABOUT THE WALLEYE ?



Our guests tell us that the walleye fishing was basically good this week. With plenty of bites from staging fish near drop offs in 8 to 20 feet of water.

Doug Lane's 24" walleye (left) was "close but no cigar" for the 26 Master Angler Pin. He was part of Rick Steward's party at Ogoki Lake who caught over 250 16-24 inch fish in their four day trip.

As our guests depart we collect the data about their success patterns and locations and pass it on to arriving guests during their pre trip planning.



WILD WEATHER-WILDERANGLERS KICK OFF 2007 - BY ALAN CHEESEMAN



Every year opening week is a wild one. And this year it was even more so. By now most of you know that we have added two more American plan lodges on the Albany River, and four more outpost cabin destinations. And we've replaced over 75 motors with clean -quiet four-stroke Yamahas.



***Snow at Miminiska Lodge
New 4-Strokes ready to go***

And, of course, there's mother nature. Our winter snows were marginal at best, and our lakes are down a bit. We had lots of rain this first week and that has helped...somewhat.

Our early guests encountered snow, rough waters driven by high winds, some sun, and frosty nights.

No Problem! These "first" guests always prepare for "all season" fishing.

I truly respect these anglers for setting the pace. It's good to see so many familiar faces again.

So did their preparation pay off? You Bet! We just totaled the most registered trophy pike for opening week, in our history.

For us, this exceptional start helps answer the question; "Do the lower water levels hurt the fishing?" Good anglers who are well prepared always succeed.

That's why we spend the time in pre-trip orientation - to ensure that every guest is well informed-a big part of being "well prepared".

Alan

Alan & Krista Cheeseman, with partner Jack Mark, own and operate Wilderness North, [www. Wildernessnorth.com](http://www.Wildernessnorth.com)

Albany River's Brook Trout - World Class beyond a doubt !

CPR - means quick horizontal handling... click the photo ...and back she goes.

Scott Earl Smith's unique fly design for sub surface "Streaming"



This fish measures 15" and weighs about 3.5 pounds. We promote gentle handling, barbless hooks and 100% Catch and Release

The pure fast moving waters of the Keezhik River are perfect habitat for these natural wild Brook Trout. For information about your personal fly in trip ...call 1-888-465-3474

LIVE VERSES ARTIFICIAL ...THE DEBATE GOES ON!



Many of our guests learned to fish with minnows or other live bait. However we have learned that the new artificial baits are worth considering, especially Gulp or other scented baits from Berkley. Where did we learn it? From our guests who are equally passionate about these easy to handle, always fresh alternatives to "live". Either way we can help. If you want live bait make sure you get your order to us early...and as for "GULP" we have them too. Salted minnows pose a problem with VHS viral issue...call us ...for more information. 888-465-3474