



New Moon + Cooler Temps = Good Fishing!

Walleyes show up and pike perk up

Red and White Dare-Devils and that Old Devil Moon! Now there's a perfect combo

Little Lakes. Big Lakes.

Shallow Water. Deep Water.

Live bait. Artificial.

You decide.

Guests tell us they found excellent fishing in all of these conditions this past week. The only common factors were that first new moon of the season, and the consistently cooler, cloudier weather.

Returning guests are our best way to compare one year's fishing to another's. And two groups that have been fishing [Ogoki Lake](#) for years, the Funk party, from Indiana and the Lewer group, from North Carolina, both claimed that this past week was their best fishing trip EVER. Both groups have been our guests for over five years and say "best ever" was true for both quantity and quality, with trophy pike and walleye from both groups. The report from both [Makokibatan](#) and [Miminiska](#) Lodge on the Albany River says the walleye are numerous with a third of the fish being caught in 20"+ group.



We have learned that when comparing our two new Albany River watershed destinations to our Ogoki River watershed lodges and outposts, the Albany area will run about a week behind on the arrival of spring weather and a week early as fall makes it's mid August debut.

Just a month ago we were preparing guests for the summer of shallow water. Today shallow water is NOT an issue. Lakes are at full pool, or higher.



So what about that new moon? Believers in the Solunar tables will tell you the New and Full Moon are key days for anglers. When moonrise and sunrise or sunset and moonset occur at or nearly the same time, feeding is especially voracious. Our [downloads](#) section at the website has a great article on Solunar Tables, called the Real Scoop. So circle July 15th through the 19th, as being "hot" fishing days next month. Our chart of Sunrise-Sunset-Moonrise and Moonset times and prime fishing days for all of 2007 can also be found at the [downloads](#) section of the website.

Tail Hook a dying minnow?

Yes, that's a great idea, especially for slightly suspended walleye.

We did real good on Broats with a floating jig and sucker last year. If you want even more struggle, try hooking the minnow in the tail with a floater and trolling him backwards.

When a minnow is dying, it often struggles to keep from sinking to the bottom so it's constantly swimming up in bursts, then falling back towards bottom. This is a signal to walleye for an easy meal. A tail hooked minnow on a floater will resemble the same thing.

As you troll and pull your rod forward, your floating jig and minnow will be forced towards the bottom.

However, as you let your rod back and let off pressure, your minnow will try to swim, and the floater will take him up just like a wounded or dying minnow would appear.



Take care.

Chris Clemmons



Okay...who really writes these fishing reports?

by Alan Cheeseman

You want the honest truth?



Guests do. They tell us what works and what doesn't. They tell us about "success patterns" they use on our area lakes and streams. They talk to us about the weather, lake levels and other environmental issues that impact their angling. We simply repeat the information they share - in a general way - right here every week.

There is one other thing we do for our arriving guests. We provide them with lake maps of their destinations, detailed with exact locations where the most recent guests have found success. These maps pass along depths in which fish were caught, lure selection, etc. At our lodges, our managers and guides track information and share it with guests. We believe that information...clear, detailed and fresh... is one more way we "outfit" our guests. In addition, we have formed a group of expert writers we call the Information Resource Team, writers like Chris Clemmons, Gord Ellis, Scott Earl Smith. The downloads section of the website is filled with their wisdom free for your use.

And one more thing...write to us. We love to hear from you. We'll get answers to you questions. We'll act on your suggestions, and, oh yes, we invite you to be a "[Wilderness North Insider](#)".

The following letter is just one example of the kind of E-mail we welcome. So when I say keep in touch...I mean it.

Alan

alan@wildernessnorth.com

LETTER OF THE WEEK:

HELLO FROM ZIG ZAG

Good morning:

We wanted to thank you and everyone at WN for another great trip to [ZigZag](#). Alan, this was one of the best trips so far and the boys are looking forward to our trip back in 2008.

Fishing - Probably one of our best years, we hooked into a lot of walleye at the incoming river to the north and the rapids going out on the far east...all 15" to 21". In addition, we caught a large amount of bigger walleyes just on the other side of the island going into Crescent lake, one 28.5 inch walleye, one 26" and quite a few 23" to 25" all around Noon to 3 PM. The 28.5" beauty I caught (photo next page) was in 12 feet of water, the rest we found in 6' to 28'.



We parked our boats on the west side of the outgoing water on the east end of the lake, We all could stand on a small rock reef 5 feet from shore, got our boots wet, that was okay as it was warm out. We proceeded to cast our pink, chartreuse jig heads in the river and let them go down in the current, we must have caught at least 50 walleyes, all from 15" to 21" the first 30 minutes.

Then it gets interesting, I decided to cast my pink jig head with no leader, 8 lb test in the small pool to the left of the current, first cast...hooked a 35" pike, brought him close to the shore...he got off. My very next cast I landed a 36" pike, took about 15 minutes because she took at least 10 to 12 runs.

After a ten minute break and watching my buddy Dave lose a jig to a pike I decided to try my luck again, I had put on a new pink head/pink tail, checked the line and after only three casts I landed a 40 1/4 " beauty, this one took about 15 minutes.



So in 5 casts I had three pike over 100" on my line...caught two and lost one, not bad considering no leader, 8 lb test, river current and here is the topper...my 40 1/4" fish had my buddies jig head in his lip.

I thought you would like to hear some of the above, the rest of the party all caught some real nice fish. We loved the deep fryer, appreciated the ice on Wednesday, the boats and motors worked very well, nice addition with the pike landing beds (cradles). The cabins the night before we flew in and the breakfast were a very nice touch.

The effort put forth in quickly loading our gear and getting us out as soon as possible is second to none. I recall one trip to Red

Lake where we waited for 3 1/2 hours before we flew out...and it was not due to weather, the additional steps WN takes, the condition of the cabins are big factors as to why we will continue to come back for years to come.

In closing, again we had a great trip and we appreciate all you efforts in making our vacations very enjoyable.

Please see attached pictures of my two fish of a life-time.

Thanks again and have a great summer.

Regards,

James Edison Jr.
Lake Elmo, MN



So sell your car and drink beer!

From our "By The Way" department comes this bit of statistics from the U.S.

A 2006 study by Texas A&M University found that the average American walks about 900 miles per year.

Another study by the American Beer Institute found that Americans drink an average of

22 gallons of beer a year. That means, on average, Americans get approximately 41 miles per gallon.

Seriously...mileage is all about weight. The weight of your foot on the accelerator. The total weight of everything you have in your car or truck. Based on a formula in which fuel is \$3 a gallon, you can save 6 cents a gallon for every 100 pounds you do NOT have aboard. If you keep your highway speeds at 60MPH, and not 70, you save another 5 cents a gallon. And if you accelerate as though there is an egg between your foot and the gas pedal, chalk up another 7 cents. Air conditioning at speeds below 45 is a gas hog ... AC at speeds above 45 mpg saves money over the wind drag created by open windows.

Zig Zag Outpost Cabin

