



# The Little Lake that Could !

## Actually, it always has...and now it's just done it again

*Minnesotans name D'Alton Lake - Big Walleye Heaven.*

Picture this: Two guys from Minnesota. A few days on a little lake less than twenty five miles from our base camp in Armstrong. Five Master Angler Walleyes including one that was 30.5 inches in length.

Now that's Canadian fishing. In July?

Yup, in July.

In fact, while most of you were celebrating the 4th of July, Ryan Evans and Ron Melander of St. Paul were celebrating [D'Alton Lake](#) and it's prolific walleye population.

So how little is the lake? It's about nine miles long north to south. The current runs south to north. While the average depth is about fifteen feet, there are holes to a hundred. The in-flowing water creates a little water falls that is a favorite spot for those who know the lake best. Ryan and Ron found luck with what they call " a home-made yellow jig" and that's about all they'll say. Many of our guests that go there tell us they catch hundreds of fish a day, with a good share in the twenty plus category. Is it the rocky drop offs? The swift current? The variety of depths? The catch and release and harvest limitations? Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. It is often a combination of many different good things that make a lake - big or small - a great fishery.

D'Alton Lake features a modern solar powered cabin in the heart of the Ogoki River watershed. Congratulations again to Ron and Ryan.



### Other Master Anglers

From our Albany River watershed's [Miminiska Lodge](#): John "Catfish" Wiseman from Columbus, OH -40 inch pike on a Johnson Silver Spoon. Ed Ciemiega from Mississauga, ON - a 40 1/4 inch Pike on a 1/4 oz yellow jig with yellow tail. From the [Zig Zag Outpost](#); Robert Lehman of Mt. Airy, Maryland, a 42 inch Northern Pike on a Fire Tiger Deep Diver.

### Mickey Who?

We have all seen those kiddy fishing poles in stores. You know, the one's that have a reel that looks like Snoopy or Mickey Mouse.

Did you ever hear of an adult man using one? Right here in Canada?

This week's special report from Resource Team writer Chris Clemmons tells the story of a guy who did. And the last laugh was his.

Chris is pretty darn smart fisherman and reveals the truth about the fishing in the article at the



[download](#) page of the website.

So let's do the math:

*It's easy to forget that 80% of the fish inhabit only about 20% of the water:*

The sport angler simply has to eliminate "bad water" and -REGARDLESS OF THE TACKLE- success awaits.

*Move, search, and fish all, time. This will help you eliminate the 80% of unproductive structure and find the more productive 20% faster.*

The article is fun to read and a very informative "how to" in learning new fisheries in the least amount of time. Look for [Any Old Mickey Mouse Rig Will Work](#) at the [downloads](#) section of the website.



## This Week's Thoughts

... by Alan Cheeseman, President Wilderness North

After last week's column about Whitewater Lake producing (what seemed like) a disproportionate number of Master Anglers, I asked myself a few more questions. The first was: Since it has produced about 48% of our Master Anglers, have 48% of our guests gone there? Not quite! 39% of our guests have gone to one of our two lodges on the lake. So the next question: Is it a better fishery? And the the answer is NO. It seems that all of our lakes are producing their fair share of master anglers too. So the next logical question is: Is it just the number of trophy fish that determines whether a lake is a good fishery? And here's where I learned the truth.

Most of our lakes this year are producing greater numbers compared to the first six weeks of other seasons. And the sizes have been better too. Guests are returning from their adventures with lots of stories about good numbers, and our returning guests are claiming "best year ever." So now the question is WHY:

In his letter following a trip to [Striker's Point Lodge](#) on Whitewater lake Brad Clemmons of Geneva IL says it best; *"The fisheries management taking place in the province and by Wilderness North's encouragement of replicas and lower (conservation license) limits on lakes that you have a vested interest in are improving the fishing immensely. The fruits of this ongoing education are just now beginning to show up. When someone mentions "The Good Old Days" rest assured that they are happening right now."*



This week's front page report from D'Alton proves Brad's point - End of Story!  
And thanks for the letters, calls and notes. Keep 'em coming.

*Alan*

[alan@wildernessnorth.com](mailto:alan@wildernessnorth.com)

---

### Release 'em sooner than later !

We are often asked, "How long can you keep a big pike out the of the water?" Fifteen seconds is the goal.

First use the cradle we have put in every boat to keep the fish horizontal. NEVER hold the fish vertically. Spinal damage often results in their death. Secondly, get the camera ready, and while keeping the fish horizontal, lift it up, take the pictures, and put it back at once. Before you let go make sure it stays "belly down" and swims on its own own. If not, slowly move the fish-back and forth-by the tail area until it swims way.



### Tip of Week: Pike in the grass.

It is almost that time of year when the "pike go deep"...so they say.

The truth is they go deep for only two reasons; to avoid water that is too warm and too bright, and to rest.

Shallow pike are available all season. Since these toothy water wolves are hunters by nature, they like to come "into the grass" in low light conditions. Cloudy overcast days, dawn and dusk are ideal times to seek them out shallow.

However, don't overlook the grass. The thicker the better. Since they love to surprise their prey, what better way than to not be seen at all. So even in the hot days of summer throw something weed-less (six inch Slug) into grass that is near moving deeper water and you may just catch the pike of lifetime. In the grass. In the shallows. In the summer.