

The Weekly Fishing Report



August 20, 2008

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Emerald Lake's Lake Trout, Zig Zag's Walleye, and Dan Carlson's Pumpkin !

...by Alan Cheeseman



Water this clear is hard to find. Even in the most remote "Island Get-A-Ways" we all hear about in the Caribbean. I'm talking about the photo in the upper left hand corner of the header. This is our latest "discovery" for angler's looking for day trips from our [Miminiska Lodge](#) on the Albany River.



The lake is named "Emerald Lake" on the maps, and true to it's name is a pure green. And clear? You can easily see to thirty feet. And it is deep and cold, so the Lake Trout are more than happy to respond to anglers offerings. And best of all you see them rise right before your eyes. Our manager, Fred White (he also pilots your day trip) is more than willing to strap a canoe on his Otter and take you there for a "one of kind 'adventure' within an adventure" when you join us at Miminiska Lake.



I also want to follow up with another report on [Zig Zag Lake](#). Dan Carlson was there in early August, and chats about what he calls a "once in a lifetime" adventure on this week's podcast. An adventure in which he learned how many fish are catchable at Zig Zag, even in the current, low water conditions. Hear Dan's remarkable account about both Walleye and Pike on this week's podcast - [Listen Now](#).

BTW: Dan, who lives in Clinton Iowa, left Canada went home and trucked his 1238 pound pumpkin to the Iowa State Fair in Des

What is the Fall Lake Turn Over?



Starting in the spring and over the course of the summer, surface waters absorb a lot of the sun's energy and can heat extensively, causing them to become quite buoyant. Winds and storms can cause some mixing and do add some oxygen; atmospheric oxygen is added by the air-water interaction to the oxygen produced within the water by aquatic plants. But there is too much difference in temperature between the surface water and that at depth to allow for complete mixing of all the water in the lake. Because of the density-temperature relationship, many lakes in temperate climates tend to stratify, that is, they separate into distinct layers. The middle layer, known as the thermocline, acts as an effective barrier to any mixing of the deeper waters. Toward the end of summer, the deep water becomes quite depleted of oxygen because no mixing has taken place.

As the days get shorter and cooler, and energy is transported away from/out of the lake, mixing becomes easier. At about 50 degrees (f), the cooler water at the surface begins to sink into and through the

Moines where he won this year's "Biggest Pumpkin" contest last Saturday - AND - set a new state record in the process. See what a Canadian fishing trip can you do for you? You can see the pumpkin weigh-in by [clicking here](#).

Although we have had some "dog days" this past week, with a bit of frost on the windscreen this morning and early autumn may be just around the corner.

That Master Angler list - including the 51 inch Pike from Whitewater Lake (see Tyler's report) just keeps growing and growing and growing - kinda like Iowa pumpkins.

Keep in touch. I welcome your phone calls and e-mails. You can [send one](#) now.

Alan

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Here - Doggy Doggy

...Professor Graham Saunders

Last week we talked about the dog days of summer and this past Sunday, the big dog arrived. Temperatures throughout the area approached 90f, and with the humid air in place, it felt more like Dallas, Texas than Thunder Bay, Ontario.



And there is a bit more on the way.

Temperatures again will be in the high 80's until this weekend with a rainy cold front pushing through. I don't see any violent weather, but a nice a cool down for a couple of days, and then unseasonably warm again early next week.

There are 18 new forest fires reported in Ontario, with a small blaze near Nipigon the closest to us, but no real danger. Warm water temperatures mean a late lake turnover, and I discuss how that all works on this week's podcast. [Listen Now](#).

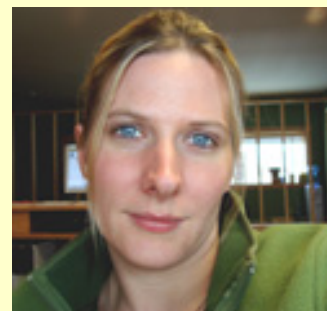
Graham Saunders, is professor of meteorology at Lakehead University here in Thunder Bay, and weather commentator for the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal and for Wilderness North.

thermocline, forcing warmer and less dense water to the surface and erasing the temperature stratification built up over the summer. At some point, the majority of the water in the lake reaches an approximately uniform temperature. Now storms and sustained high winds can begin to perform the task of overturning and mixing all of the water in the lake -- referred to as fall turnover.

My Check In

by Krista Cheeseman

I am away this week, getting the kids ready for school, but I have been tracking guests coming back from their trips into our lodges and remote cabin adventures, and promise, cross my heart - to have a complete update next week.

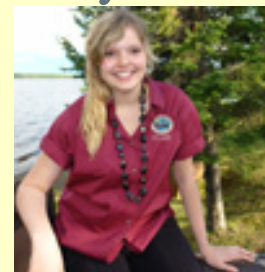


I do know that we have added twenty-three new Master Anglers since last week, and now have a total of 162 Master Anglers (see the [download file](#)) so far in the season, including Dan Deeter's big Pike from out at [Striker's Point Lodge](#) on Whitewater Lake. Talk to you next week.

Hot Temps - Hot Fishing On The Albany!

...by Katelyn Johnson

It was another hot and blistering (above 90f) week at [Miminiska](#) Lake, where hats and SPF were definite necessities while out in the boat! And even though the heat may have left our guests feeling a little sluggish, the fish were out and eager - at least the smaller Northern Pike. Catches this week averaged about 31 in for Pike. Popular fishing hotspots included Wottom Bay, Snake Falls, and just off of Caribou Island.



This week was especially exciting because we had our first guests venture out to explore two of our new fly-out locations: the Suzanne River, and Emerald Lake. (See photo in left header.) Both locations really delivered! The two-day trip down the Suzanne provided our guests with plenty of BIG Brookies - and several were over the trophy size of 21 inches! In addition to great fishing, guests also got to experience a night under the stars, with nothing but the sights and sounds of the majestic and pristine wilderness to carry them off to dreamland.



Emerald Lake is appropriately named - the crystal clear, blue-green water and light sandy bottom looks almost like a Caribbean paradise, if not for the lush Boreal forests that surround the perimeter. The water is so clear, you can see over 60 ft into the depths - imagine getting to watch Lake Trout swim

Music From the Wilderness



It's called "Music From the Wilderness" and has 15 cuts of relaxing piano, guitar and string music that captures the tranquility of the Canadian wilderness. It is the music you hear as backdrop on our podcasts and it is available now for just \$15 USD delivered to your door.

To learn more about "Music From the Wilderness" and to meet the composer and hear sample songs, [click here](#).

Or call 1-888-465-3474
and order yours today.

Back "issues" of the Fishing Reports and Newsletters

If you would like to go
back to check a story in
one of our past e-mails
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Report or a Wilderness
North Newsletter you
can do so in our [archive
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up and take your lure below the surface! Emerald Lake is certainly one of those "you have to see it to believe it" one of a kind of places. Guests can schedule a day fly-in trip but it is strictly "paddle only" and the Lake Trout are most cooperative.

At first glance of the these photos, you would think you were in a Caribbean destination, however keep telling yourself - this is Northwestern Ontario and [Miminiska Lodge](#).

Whitewater Lake Delivers 51 Inch Pike

...Tyler Lancaster

What a great week here at [Striker's Point Lodge](#) on Whitewater Lake. Beautiful weather, lot's of enormous fish, and unbelievable numbers.

Dan Deeter of Wisconsin could never have imagined what was in store for him when guide Nick Tomberg placed him into a bay just behind Best Island. After 3 casts it happened, a brutish 51 in Northern ripped his weedless 5 of diamonds. The monster was taken in about 11 feet of water just on the edge of some lily pads. Congratulations Dan!!



Also with us last week was Ron "Mr. Walleye " Detjen and his friends out of Wisconsin. These guys had an incredible knack for locating active Walleye and staying on them. They averaged about 200-300 fish a day including three pigs. Jim Koziol landed a 27 in, and a 30 in Walleye. (His photo is in the header to the right.) Ron Detjen produced a hefty 28 in as well. They were targeting "hump " areas, or mid-lake structure not connected to anything. One of the key tickets for them was live leeches and also varying their jigging methods from either vertical or drag presentations.

Frank Wheatlake brought his family members up for a nice four-day getaway last week and what a blast they had. Rick Hall of Michigan waited until the last day of his trip to exhibit his Piking skills. He caught a 35 in, a 37 in, and a 38.5 in in the matter of a couple hours trolling a silver Williams Whitefish in depths of 14-23 feet of water off of rocky islands. His father Fred bested him, however, with a 40 in beauty caught while trolling a classic red and white daredevil in about 7 feet of weedy water.

I can't wait to see what this week will bring with more great

weather forecasted and 10 boats on the water!