



In this Issue:

Wabakimi Trip Planning Basics Webinar - Sunday, April 16th

Wabakimi's Brook (aka Speckled) Trout Secrets

[FOW at Midwest Outdoor Expo - April 28-30 in Minneapolis](#)

Two Wabakimi Project Trip Reports: [Kopka River.](#) [Fitchie to Pashkokogan Lake](#)

[Annual Meeting Report - Bruce Hyer honored](#)

The Wabakimi Project Work Lives On...Mapping Updates

[Join FOW-Membership Show Specials](#) until May 1st. (Includes Guidebook, Updated Planning Map & Large Canoe Sticker)



Wabakimi's Brook (aka Speckled) Trout Secrets

Nicholas writes to us, "I recently watched [Canoehound adventures featuring FOW](#) and heard there are large brook trout in some areas. As much as I love big pike and walleye fishing, at heart I'm a trout angler. Brook trout being my favorite species closely followed by lake trout.." We shared this with our "trip consultants" group.

Ray: "The best trout fishing is probably the Albany River and drainages to that (like the



Wabakimi Trip Planning Basics WEBINAR, Sunday April 16th

Expedition Committee chair Mary Jean Blaisdell will moderate our April 16th Trip Planning Basics webinar. ([Zoom meeting link here](#))_Committee members will address:

- What kind of trip do you want? I.e. number of days, kms per day, slow or fast pace; travel or base-camp; variable portage

Shabuskwia system). Those are large brookies (I ran into a guy who uses a #9 rod and mouse flies for them!)... The Wabinoosh River above Waweig Lake and the Badwater Creek drainage have more modest sized brookies, and those are road access routes in our Volume Five. Brook trout are truly a Wabakimi treasure."

Vern: "...on page 17 of the Canoe Atlas of the Little North, a classic canoeing guide, you will see a distribution map for Brook Trout in the Little North. Brook Trout should be found across most of the Wabakimi Area south of the Albany River. My experience with [Brook "Speckled" Trout is on the Greenmantle River in "upper thumb" of Wabakimi.](#) I think you will have success where ever you find small fast, flowing streams. See photo (above) of my first two casts on Suzanne Rapids."

Jeffrey: "[Paul Smith, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinal outdoors writer fished tributary streams into Miminiska Lake, which is on the Albany River. Here's a similar article in the Miminiska area.](#) The Ogoki River also has had a reputation for its brook trout, but (may not) be as productive as it used to be, alleged to be due to the way the river was diverted. See also the [Atlas of Brook Trout Rivers and Streams in Ontario](#) (read online)."

Ken: "I recall John H. saying there were Brook Trout (Speckled in Canada) on the lower reaches of Linklater Creek above Upper Pashowconk Lake back in 2015."

Barry: "There is a lot of trout on the Miskow river."

conditions, cost; time of year preferences, high water issues like finding portages; expectations about remoteness.

- Canoe map resources & entry/exit points (by float plane, train or road access)
- Outfitter and planning resources
- Emergency planning, communications and extraction
- Your questions & comments

We also have members willing to provide feedback/advice for questions. Email those to info@wabakimi.org and we'll share those.

[Improved Wabakimi Planning Map.](#) We now have an improved planning map which shows entry points, train stops, park maintained vs historic canoe routes and active outposts. Thanks to Dan at [GoTrekks Maps](#) in La Ronge, Saskatchewan. Best of all, we can make updates now as needed.

FOW will be at the [Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Expo, April 28-30 in Minneapolis, Minn.](#) We'll have canoe route maps, Guidebooks, and lots of information about planning a Wabakimi canoe exploration. Vern Fish is giving two presentations that Sunday afternoon, April 30th. " Paddling Emergency Preparedness (PEP) - Are you ready?" and "Wabakimi Wilderness" at the UMN West Bank

Two Wabakimi Project Trip Reports:

Kopka River. Enjoy this detailed report by FOW incorporator John Sinclair with map maker Barry Simon. This was capstone of the 14 year effort to map the Wabakimi area covering the two waterway parks (Brightsand and Kopka Rivers). This is also the featured route in our Guidebook.

Fitchie to Pashkokogan

Lake. Vern Fish's 2009 report. Fitchie Lake is Entry Point 16 on our updated Planning map. The westside Caribou Forest routes are covered in Volume 2, and were mapped and cleared in the 2007-9. FOW is encouraging trips in this area to again document and improve these routes.

Earth Day 2023 is April

23rd Our work to protect woodland caribou habitat is ongoing. There many moving parts. We'll report in depth in the near future!



Wabakimi Provincial Park and surrounding Crown Lands. The result of this was a Project Planning map and set of five Map Volumes that recorded routes, portages and campsites throughout the area.

For those who served as a volunteers in this effort, questions lingered, “What happens after we’ve left our work in this area? Will it still be here next year and for many years after? Will the maps make any difference to future paddlers?”

Campus; Hanson Hall, 1925 S 4th St, Minneapolis, MN. A Sat. night gathering is planned as well for members and new friends.

Thanks to all our volunteers and new members at Canoecopia, Toronto Outdoors Sport Show and the Ontario Backcountry Canoe Symposium.

Bruce Hyer was honored with FOW Legacy Award

at the 2023 Annual Members Meeting in Madison, WI. Bruce is an outspoken advocate for woodland caribou habitat and canoe/recreational interests; as well as long-time outfitter.

[Read our interview with Bruce here.](#)

New Board members! Brian Beney (Waterloo, ON), Laurence Mills (Callander, ON), Trevor Twose (Hayward, WI), Beth Rausch (River Falls, WI,) [See all our Board member bios here.](#)

The Wabakimi Project Work Lives On... Canoe Route Map Updates

By Mary Jean Blaisdell, Expedition Committee Chair

[The Wabakimi Project was a 14 year effort](#) by Phil Cotton ((1940-2018) and many volunteers to find and record historical canoe routes throughout

Once the project ended, and Phil Cotton passed, those questions remained. Phil, wanting Project efforts to live on, established the Friends of Wabakimi with a mission to promote and protect the Wabakimi area.

One way that FOW has addressed these questions is by encouraging travel to the area so that routes can be determined as viable or in need of work. In addition, FOW has established relationships with park, government, local businesses as well as interested citizens to continue the intended mission.

But what about all the maps that had been created through the project? In recent years, the FOW has tried to determine the best way to preserve and update the Project Planning Map and Volume Maps. With no access to existing previous originals, it was time to find another way. FOW worked with GoTrekKers Maps to produce a new, editable version of the planning map which included input from the park system. In addition, FOW is working with Laurence Mills, a route map maker who sold his Wabakimi products online to paddlers. Laurence is providing to FOW the rights to his extensive collection of route maps; which eventually will be offered as PDF downloads. This is great news!

Of course, FOW wanted to be sure that previous Wabakimi Project efforts were not lost, so a detailed analysis of similarities and differences between Laurence Mills route maps and Project Volume maps helped FOW to determine what holes in the information, if any, needed to be filled. This will be an ongoing effort, but is well under way!

In the future FOW will then provide these maps online in place of Project Volume maps, knowing that they contain all the information from those years of project work plus recent updates.



Explore Wabakimi!



This expansive wilderness canoe area consists of Wabakimi Provincial Park with surrounding provincial parks, conservation reserves and Crown Land forests; larger than BWCA and Quetico combined. Limited road access is frequently combined with float plane fly-ins and the VIA Rail passenger train.



Friends of Wabakimi is:

Protecting & restoring historic canoe routes, building on 14 years of *The Wabakimi Project*.

A community of friends and paddlers, with newsletters, gatherings & interactive webinars.



Advocating to protect essential habitat for the woodland caribou and other threatened species.



Raising funds to support Wabakimi Provincial Park. Eleven bird song meters for field placement this spring. Past projects were a legacy debris cleanup effort and creation of a new park Kiosk, which includes original indigenous art. The Kiosk will be in place for the park's 40th anniversary in 2023.



An international non-profit. Our 300 members and 14 member board are split 50/50 between Canada and the United States.

Join Us Today!

Go to www.wabakimi.org

info@wabakimi.org



Above: CanoeCopia Poster, Bruce Hyer receives the FOW Legacy Award at the Annual Meeting, Board members Mhairi McFarlane & Brian Beney at the

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The Ultimate Guide to Canoeing
Where to Go & What to Buy

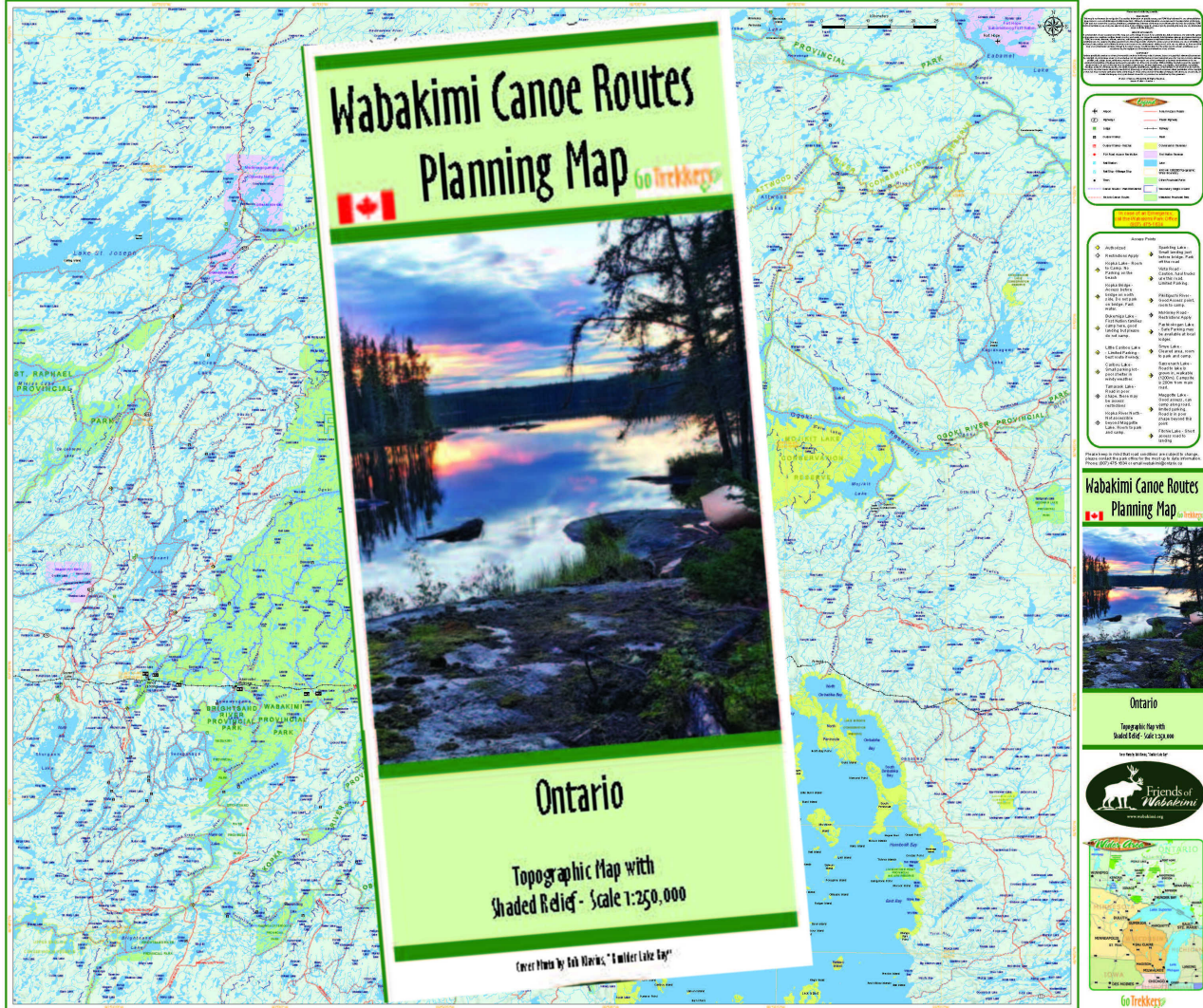


Wabakimi
Canoe Outfitters & EcoLodge



Mattice Lake Outfitters

Join or Renew your FOW Membership Today!



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