

Tokaryk Lake is Back!

By: Bob Morenski



One of our buds from Utah, Roger Baker, displays a typical Tokaryk rainbow. According to Bruno Bruerderlin, the head biologist for the southern region of Manitoba, these rainbows are not triploids' like some people are saying but are a Trout Lodge rainbow/Steelhead cross. These guys are some of the hottest and high flying rainbows that you encounter anywhere on the planet. (Pictured provided by Roger Baker)

One of my all time favorite lakes in Manitoba is back and with it the world famous **Tokaryk take!** As of late June, the best fish that we have measured was 21.5 inches. I know what you are thinking. *That is not that big!* Don't tell the rainbows on **Tokaryk** that because whatever they lack in size, they more than make up with attitude. These fish are just down right mean! I only fished there three times for either a morning or evening session. I was broke off six times on 1X tippet. I am telling you that they are just down right **MEAN!** The only thing better than having mean fish, is having lots of mean fish. You will find that at Tokaryk, as well.

Tokaryk's comeback has its roots in the fact that it winterkilled in during the winter of 2006/2007. The lake had been badly over run by suckers. When I heard that the lake had close to a 100% winterkill, I was excited. Because I knew that it would take something like that to ever get the lake back on track. It was amazing how quickly the forage base bounced back after the kill. It was stocked that fall. The fish have just done amazing ever since. The rainbows are just slabs. The larger ones are pushing close to 4 pounds already. Their runs have been astonishing and most of the fish jump like they are being shot out of a rocket launcher. **Dave LaFrance** had one jump 9 times before he put the net to it.

Back in February, we had a report that the lake winterkilled. This was based on dissolved oxygen readings taken from a monitor that mounted on the lake all winter. The readings at one point dropped below 1.0 which should be lethal to trout. I do not know where the fish holed up but

when I got a report from some guys that fished the lake in early May, Their catch was the best news that I had all year.

One of the greatest aspects of **Tokaryk Lake** is its location. It is less than 2 miles from the **Patterson Lake Campground**. On days when you have a nasty wind out of the west, Patterson Lake can become almost unfishable. On those days, you can get easily out of the wind by throwing pontoon in the truck and heading over to Tokaryk Lake. The launch is on the southwest corner on Tokaryk and you can get out of a hard west or northwest blow.



Tokaryk Lake is a great location to hit when Patterson Lake is being temperamental or the wind is blowing hard out of the west or northwest.

Besides rainbows, Tokaryk also has brown trout. While they were stocked in equal numbers, We have been averaging about 10 rainbows to every brown trout caught. Most of the browns are about 16 inches or less but Manitoba Fisheries has been stocking some excess brood stock browns in the lake. A few of these may top 30 inches. They only can move a small number of these at a time but **Bruno Bruerderlin**, the head biologist for the southern region of Manitoba, told me that they were going to put in about 300 of these. **Dave LaFrance** has caught a couple of these and they start at about 19 inches.

This lake is good and is only going to get better. I personally landed a 30 inch rainbow on this lake back in 1995 and had a few more over 28. We also know that the browns will also reach that size. If you like lake fly fishing for trout and like to a lot of fish, this is the place to go. One of the best trout lakes on the North American continent is back and most of us live 4 to 6 hours or less away. Take the time to come up to the Manitoba Parkland and have the best fly fishing times of your life.

See you on the water!

Bob Morenski

PS. If this is not enough to get you up there, check out the photograph below from nearby Patterson Lake!



Gary Mourhess displays an awesome 28 inch hen brown trout that he caught on a Pine Squirrel Zonker. The color was Pearl Dyed Olive Diamond Braid with a brown pine squirrel back. Gary is a member of both the Dakota Fly Fishers and the Missouri Valley Fly Fishers and resides in Bismarck.

A Gary Mourhess photo