NIAGARA FALLS, NY (Dec. 15, 2015) -- The Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association (LOTSA) will host its ninth annual Salmon School on Jan. 23, 2016, as part of the annual Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo, at The Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls (101 Old Falls St., Niagara Falls, NY). This in-depth and educational session is designed to “pick the brains” of some of the best salmon fishermen on the Great Lakes. The Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo runs Jan. 22 through 24, 2016. Tickets to the expo are now available at www.NiagaraFishingExpo.com.

“This is not for novice anglers,” says Joe Yaeger, LOTSA president. “This is a ‘hard core’ class targeted at the serious fisherman. Preregistration is required for this full-day of instruction. It’s a perfect complement to the Greater Niagara Fishing and Outdoor Expo, an event planned with great focus on education. This class usually sells out so register early.”

At the top of the list of Salmon School teachers is Capt. Pete Alex of Erie, PA, the skipper aboard Vision Quest. His track record of winning fishing tournaments on Lake Ontario is huge. He won the first weekend of the 2014 Pro-Am Salmon Team Tournament out of Niagara and he is also one of the top money winners on the Canadian tournament circuits on the lake. While he fishes out of Wilson every spring, he moves around to compete. As a result, his knowledge about putting together a king salmon program in a short amount of time in a new area is invaluable for anglers that also like to move around or have a limited amount of time to spend on the water.

Capt. Pete Lahosky, also from the Keystone State, operates his Prime Time fishing operation out of Oswego in the Eastern Basin of the lake. He, too, is a big name in the tournament circuit and his fishing knowledge of the entire lake is impressive. In addition to being an expert salmon fisherman, he also specializes in light tackle brown trout fishing.

The third amigo for this year’s School is Capt. George Freeman of Ludington, Michigan. He brings 32 years of salmon fishing on that Great Lake to the table – all the techniques used to catch those fish under a wide variety of conditions. One of his specialties is the use of cut bait in his king salmon program, a tactic he has been fine-tuning for more than 10 years.
To find out more information on the Salmon School and how to register, go to www.lotsa.org. The cost is $85 per person, which includes LOTSA membership for 2016, lunch, admission to the Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo on Saturday and Sunday, as well as a goody bag of popular trolling baits. For more information on the expo itself, visit www.NiagaraFishingExpo.com

“Michael Hay of Lake Luzerne, NY, fished with two friends who attended the Salmon School last year and they were so impressed with the school and the area, they returned to fish the Spring Lake Ontario Counties Trout and Salmon Derby on the Niagara Bar,” said Bill Hilts, outdoor promotions director for the Niagara Tourism & Convention Corporation. “The rest is history when the trio reeled in a $15,000 Grand Prize king salmon, thanks to LOTSA and the Salmon School instructors. They even caught the winning fish on a lure that was handed out for attending the school. Sign up today!”

The Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls is owned by USA Niagara Development Corporation (USAN), a subsidiary of Empire State Development. In 2004, USAN developed the $20 million Conference & Event Center, which generates an estimated $13-$19 million in annual direct spending on local hotels, food and beverage and transportation in the region. USAN is solely dedicated to the support and promotion of economic development initiatives in Niagara Falls by leveraging private investment and encouraging growth and renewal of the tourism industry in the City of Niagara Falls. The Conference & Event Center and Old Falls Street, USA, are managed by Spectra by Comcast Spectacor (www.SpectraExperiences.com).

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