

# Chain O' Lakes Breeze

**Let's go boating**

**Volo Museum**

**McHenry Outdoor  
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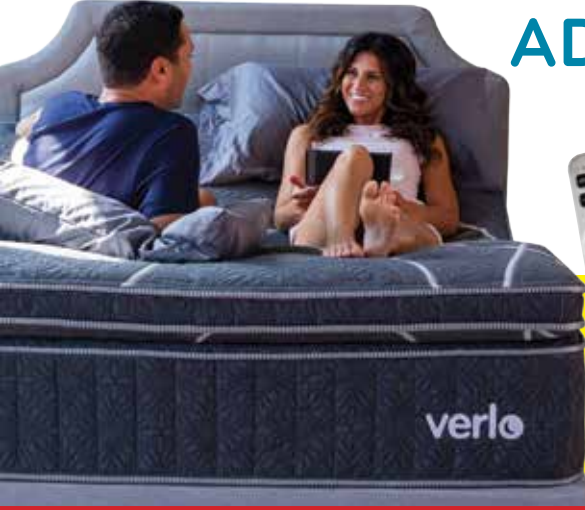


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# Let's go boating

*Cruise confidently with these 5 insider tips*

Spending time with your crew on the water this summer? There's no better place to be! Boating, a longstanding American pastime, has seen a surge in popularity as millions of people recognize it gives you the freedom to explore and is one of the most fun, relaxing ways to escape stress on land. Plus, studies show being on the water improves health and wellness. It makes sense why a record number of newcomers purchased their first boat over the past two years.

Whether you're new to boating or an experienced captain still navigating best practices for enjoying a day on the water, remember it should be fun - not intimidating. Understanding the basics on what to do and what to bring will help make you a safer, more confident boater while creating lasting memories.

"If you are looking for fun and adventure this summer, on the water with friends and family is where it's at. There's nothing more enjoyable and relaxing than a day on a boat with your favorite people," said Ellen Bradley, senior vice president of Discover Boating. "Before you take the helm, learning the basic boating essentials will help ensure a fun and safe experience for all involved."

Discover Boating is a helpful one-stop resource for everything from finding the boat that's right for you to maintenance checklists and how-to's, boating destinations and boating education topics. Additionally, with Discover Boating's new Dealer Finder tool, you can conveniently locate and connect with verified boat dealers in your area.

Below are five tips from Discover Boating to improve your nautical know-how in no time to ensure the best possible experience on (and off) the water.

## **Learn the rules of the water**

It is important to have the boating information and certifications you need to be a safe and responsible boater. By consulting Discover Boating's safe boating tips, developing a safety checklist and obtaining the necessary training or certificates in your state, you not only protect yourself and your passengers but also other boaters on the water.

## **Take a class**

Take the helm and become a confident boater. Sign up for a boating lesson to hone your powerboating, sailing or watersports skills by mastering the basics while having fun along the way. On-water training courses, watersports camps, youth boating programs and more are offered across the United States.

## **Visit a boat show**

Boat shows are an ideal place to immerse yourself in the boating lifestyle and provide a unique opportunity to meet face-to-face with - and shop - a variety of boat dealers and marine product companies all under one roof.

Most boat shows also offer educational opportunities (often complimentary) whether you're a seasoned skipper looking to improve your skills or a new boater looking for tips on everything from boating safety to navigation and boat operation. Find a boat show in your area.

## **Look for the seal of approval**

When shopping for a boat, whether at a boat show, online or at a dealership, check to make sure it is NMMA Certified. NMMA Certified boat and trailer manufacturers have been independently inspected to ensure they meet strict industry standards for safety and construction, as well as all federal regulations. Look for the NMMA Certified sticker near the helm of a boat.

## **Preserve your boat**

Similar to car maintenance, there are a few areas that require regular maintenance by the owner, and a few areas that require maintenance at routine intervals, which most leave to the professionals.

Prepare a boat maintenance checklist that covers everything from engine needs to cleaning to electrical systems to ensure your boat has a long lifespan.

Use the social media hashtag #SeeYouOutHere to share your favorite moments on the water.

Visit [discoverboating.com](http://discoverboating.com) for resources, storage options, tips and how-tos for getting on the water, boat shopping, safety and more.

(BPT)



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**above, from top:** Enjoy your next boating adventure and be sure to use the social media hashtag #SeeYouOutHere to share your favorite moments on the water; Getting the boat out on the water for a day of fishing is one of the great summer joys for sportsmen.

STOCK PHOTOS The Breeze





# Volo Museum 'Ford v Ferrari' exhibit now open

If you know the history of Carroll Shelby and Ken Miles helping Ford dominate the 24-hour Le Mans race in the '60s, or if you're just a huge fan of the movie starring Matt Damon and Christian Bale, Volo Museum's new "Ford v Ferrari" exhibit will get your heart racing.

The exciting exhibit opened to the public over the fourth of July weekend. It features four of the screen-used "hero cars" from the movie. "Hero cars" is the term used for the featured vehicles in the film that leading actors shot scenes in, and/or cars that were used in the movie's advertisements and promotional posters

and products.

Visitors can see this new multimillion-dollar exhibit at no additional cost; it is included in the regular Volo Museum admission. The exhibit room has a racing-pit ambiance filled with hand-painted artistic scenery, a dozen TV screens and still images of the historic race as well as photos taken during film production.

"The goal of the exhibit was not just showcasing the cars but immersing our guests in the 24-hour Le Mans and Daytona racing experience," said Brian Grams, director of the museum located at 27582 Volo Village Road in Volo. "We want you

to hear the sounds of the cars and feel the excitement that the drivers and fans felt."

The four cars featured will be the baby blue colored No. 1 1966 Ford GT 40 Mark II that Christian Bale drove to win the Le Mans race, the fire red No. 21 1966 Ferrari 330 P3, the green 1966 Ford GT 40 used in the Daytona race scenes and the 1966 Ford Country Squire wagon that the Miles family drove in the movie.

"We're famous for our cars," said Jim Wojdyla, marketing director. "But it's so fun to see the looks on people's faces when they get here and see how much has been changed, added and expanded."

From hundreds of modern muscle, classic collector and iconic Hollywood cars to a military museum and Disney displays, Volo Museum features something for everyone. Volo Museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For other details, visit volofun.com, find Volo Museum on social media, or call 815-385-3644.

Volo Museum Director Brian Grams stands near a couple of the Hollywood-used cars in the museum's new, multimillion-dollar «Ford v Ferrari» exhibit, which opened the Fourth of July weekend.

JIM WOJDYLA PHOTO *The Breeze*

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Water sports make summer even more fun. Safety should always be the utmost priority for anyone involved in such activities.

STOCK PHOTO *The Breeze*

# Simple safety tips for water sports enthusiasts

Bodies of water like lakes, rivers and oceans often elicit fond memories of fun times spent under the sun. Safety should always be a priority when spending time on the water, especially when participating in water sports, including swimming and water skiing.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 40 people die by drowning every hour of every day, which equates to around 372,000 deaths each year. Many of those deaths, the vast majority of which occur in low- or middle-income countries, are preventable, and safety is at the core of drowning prevention.

Though drowning incidents are not as prevalent in the United States and Canada as they are elsewhere in the world, the popularity of water sports in both countries underscores the importance of revisiting the various ways to stay safe when out on the water.

## Take lessons

The carefree nature of spring and summer can make it easy for water sports enthusiasts to forgo lessons before trying their hands at water skiing and wakeboarding. But such lessons can teach people techniques that can keep them safe on the water. Courses teach everything from how to get up and out of the water to how to properly handle a tow rope. They also can teach boaters how to navigate waters while towing skiers, tubers and wakeboarders.

## Learn the signals

Learn hand signals and go over them before getting in the water. The National Safety Council emphasizes the importance of basic hand signals, which can be used to help boaters communicate with the people

they're towing.

Hand signals are vital because water sports tend to be noisy, so nonverbal communication may be the only way boaters can communicate with the people they're towing. Signals can be used to communicate anything from directions of turns to speed requests to the condition of the person being towed.

A list of hand signals can be found at [www.boaterexam.com/safety/safety-common-hand-signals.aspx](http://www.boaterexam.com/safety/safety-common-hand-signals.aspx).

## Inspect tow lines

The NSC advises inspecting tow lines prior to beginning. Such inspections can confirm that tow lines are not caught in the propeller or wrapped around anyone before the activity begins.

## Take your time

Wait for the propeller to stop before getting back on the boat. People being towed should always wait for propellers to stop before climbing back into the boat. It doesn't take long for propellers to stop, and those extra few seconds can dramatically reduce risks for accidents or injuries.

## Only during the day

Visibility is compromised once the sun goes down. That can make it hard for boaters to see any obstacles that might appear in the water, and it also makes it very difficult for them to communicate with the people they're towing. As a result of such difficulties, the NSC urges water sports enthusiasts to only engage in such activities during daylight hours.

(METRO CREATIVE)

# Drownings on the rise in Kenosha County

Kenosha County authorities said a 14-year-old boy drowned in a pond at a campground in the Village of Bristol in July.

The boy, according to the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, went missing July 23 at around 5 p.m. when he was last seen near a pond at Happy Acres Kampground, 22230 45th St., Bristol.

At about 8:23 p.m. Kenosha County deputies responded to the scene, and learned from the mother that the boy was able to swim and did not wear a flotation device.

"Deputies checked the area surrounding the pond and the entire campground but did not locate the juvenile," the Sheriff's Department said.

Salem Lakes Fire and Rescue arrived a short time later and checked the pond using immersion suits.

Additionally, drone operators from Walworth County and the Village of Pleasant Prairie also responded and surveyed the area, according to the Sheriff's Department.

However, authorities called off the search and resumed on Sunday, July 24.

At about 9 a.m., Salem Lakes Fire and Rescue as well as other assisting agencies found the missing boy using sonar technology, and recovered the body from the pond.

The Kenosha County Medical Examiner, who responded to the scene, pronounced the boy dead.

"Families that may need assistance in dealing with tragedy are encouraged to contact the Kenosha County Mental Health Resource Center at 262-764-8555 or the 24/7 Crisis Line at 262-657-7188," the Sheriff's Department stated.

The Kenosha County Mental Health Resource Center is available Monday through Friday.

The drowning, which is the third in recent weeks, comes days after Kenosha County officials issued a joint statement on water safety in both the city and county of Kenosha.

County Executive Samantha Kerkman, along with City of Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian, issued the joint statement reminding the community to be alert and exercise caution while swimming.

An 8-year-old girl drowned July 19 while in a roped-off designated swimming area on Powers Lake in western Kenosha County.

One week earlier, on the opposite end of the county, a 5-year-old boy was pronounced dead after he was pulled from the water in Lake Michigan, near the mouth of the Pike River.

"My heart goes out to both of these families," Kerkman said. "These tragedies underscore that this is a countywide issue. Whether it's Lake Michigan or our inland lakes, water safety is something that must be kept top of mind while swimming, for people of all ages."

"It is sad and shocking to hear about another drowning this week in Kenosha County. I send my sincere sympathies to the families who lost their loved ones," said Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian. "It is a sobering reminder that everyone needs to be mindful of water safety."

The American Red Cross offered a few basic water safety tips.

People should ensure that every member of their family learns to swim so they at least achieve skills of water competency, including ability to enter the water, get a breath, stay afloat, change position, swim a distance and then get out of the water safely.

Additionally, swimmers should employ layers of protection, including barriers to prevent access to water, lifejackets, and close supervision of children to prevent drowning.

Other tips include how to safely help someone in the water, calling for emergency help and learning CPR.

More information is available at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

The Kenosha Safety Around Water Coalition, an organization organized by the Kenosha YMCA, has also published a series of water safety articles. These are available at [www.kenoshaymca.org/news](http://www.kenoshaymca.org/news).

Kerkman and Antaramian encourage those who have been affected by these and other drowning events – or any other tragedy – to access behavioral health services that are available in the community.





# show time at the McHenry Outdoor Theater

*Property upgrades, new offerings add to appeal of movie nights this season*

Nothing screams summer like taking in a movie on a giant screen under the stars. And at the McHenry Outdoor Theater, which launched its open-seven-days-a-week season with “Top Gun: Maverick” over Memorial Day weekend, the experience just keeps getting better. Along with making numerous improvements to the grounds and concession area, theater owner Scott Dehn invested about \$40,000 this spring on refurbishing the six-story-high, 100-foot-wide screen at the southeast corner of Chapel Hill and Lincoln roads. Another \$10,000 went into new lighting and lenses for the digital projector. And the result? It’s a movie-lover’s dream. “It’s gorgeous,” Dehn said. “I never thought we would have a clearer, brighter picture. But we do. It’s beautiful.” And it’s just in time for the return of a stellar crop of first-run features after a pandemic-prompted dearth of new films over the last couple of years. First-run blockbusters scheduled for

the Outdoor this summer include “Jurassic World Dominion,” “Minions: The Rise of Gru” and “DC League of Super-Pets,” to name a few. Adding to the experience for adults will be the addition of the Skyline Tap and Gaming area in the concession building’s north side. Beer and wine will be available for purchase until intermission. Those at the wheel on entering the grounds will receive a hand stamp indicating they are the designated driver for the night, and will not be served, Dehn said. “We had many meetings with the Lakemoor village administrator to build in safety standards before obtaining the liquor license,” Dehn said. “All servers will be Basset-trained and certified.” Another change for visitors to enjoy is the addition of a small merchandise shop featuring T-shirts, sweatshirts, blankets, Frisbees, hats and can koozies, with prices ranging from \$6 for a koozie to \$45 for a sweatshirt. Those looking to view the film from the lap of luxury can rent an inflatable lounge for \$7, with a \$10 deposit.

New concession items have been added as well, including chicken sandwiches and soft serve ice cream, along with cappuccino and hot chocolate for those brisk summer nights. Children and adults will appreciate new movie-themed artwork destined for the area under the screen as well as around the projector and concession buildings. Indeed, special surprises are in store all summer long. “Any time we’re showing an animated or family-friendly movie, we’ll have a bounce house on the grounds as well as face painting,” Dehn said. “We’re also scheduling some bands to come out and play in the evenings before the movies start, and looking into doing more virtual concerts like we did with Bon Jovi last summer.” “It’s going to be a great season,” he continued. “The atmosphere here is kind of like a big block party where there also happen to be movies playing. Plus, it’s generational. You have grandpa and grandma with the grandkids — and they’ve

all grown up here. There’s not many places where you can say that anymore.” The McHenry Outdoor Theater opened as the Sky-line Drive-In in July 1951. The property, including an additional nine acres Dehn purchased to the east of the parking area, was annexed to Lakemoor in 2020. Admission this season is \$12 per adult, \$6 for military and seniors as well as children ages 3 to 11, and free for those younger than 3. A \$12-per-carload special began May 31 and continues each Tuesday night thereafter. Season passes also are available. For details, visit [goldenagecinemas.com](http://goldenagecinemas.com). McHenry Outdoor Theater owner Scott Dehn talks about changes that are under way in the concession building at the theater, located at 1510 N. Chapel Hill Road. The theater boasts a newly refurbished screen, and visitors can anticipate numerous other upgrades this season. SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*



# Resort cabin gets second life as historic structure

By Patrick T. King  
CONTRIBUTOR

The McHenry County Historical Society had a plaque dedication of a unique structure, the restored Cabin No. 8 at Pink Harrison's Resort on the shores of Pistakee Bay, in July.

Chicago in the 1920s was a rapidly expanding, heavily congested, noisy and smelly place – especially during the hot Midwest summers. Just two hours north by train, there was a place to escape the busy city, a region of pristine beauty, fresh air, swimming and fishing, known as, the Chain O'Lakes. It was here Anton and Mary Immekus bought a home, which they, along with their five children, enjoyed every summer. Eventually their daughter, Christine, married Frank "Pink" Harrison and together they bought the parents' Pistakee Bay summer home.

In 1932 they purchased a parcel across the street, which came with all-important water rights. It was a time of the Great Depression, so more than enough good affordable help was available and construction began immediately on the one- and two-bedroom cabins. One year later Frank and Christine began to rent their new cabins and Pink Harrison's Resort opened.

There were hundreds of fishing cabins to rent along the Chain O'Lakes, but few came equipped with such amenities as a sink with running water, linoleum flooring, a gas stove, electric lights, a comfortable bed, and a separate men's and women's bath house with flush toilets.

There was even linen-service, which consisted of one fresh towel and washcloth per day and fresh sheets once a week. There were fine flat bottom boats to rent, or one could fish off the pier.

This parcel was referred to as "The Cabin Lot" and eventually consisted of 13 cabins and a bathhouse. These cabins were numbered according to their sequence of construction.

In December of 1933 Prohibition ended, it was now time to convert the home to a restaurant, the garage into a bar and build a dance hall. All, but the dance hall, are still standing today – directly across the street.

As time went on, Pink and Christine purchased one parcel after another until they had nearly 5 acres. In the 1940s they moved the dance hall closer to the water's edge, made it a dining room, built a new kitchen and a tavern, with a 28-foot bar.

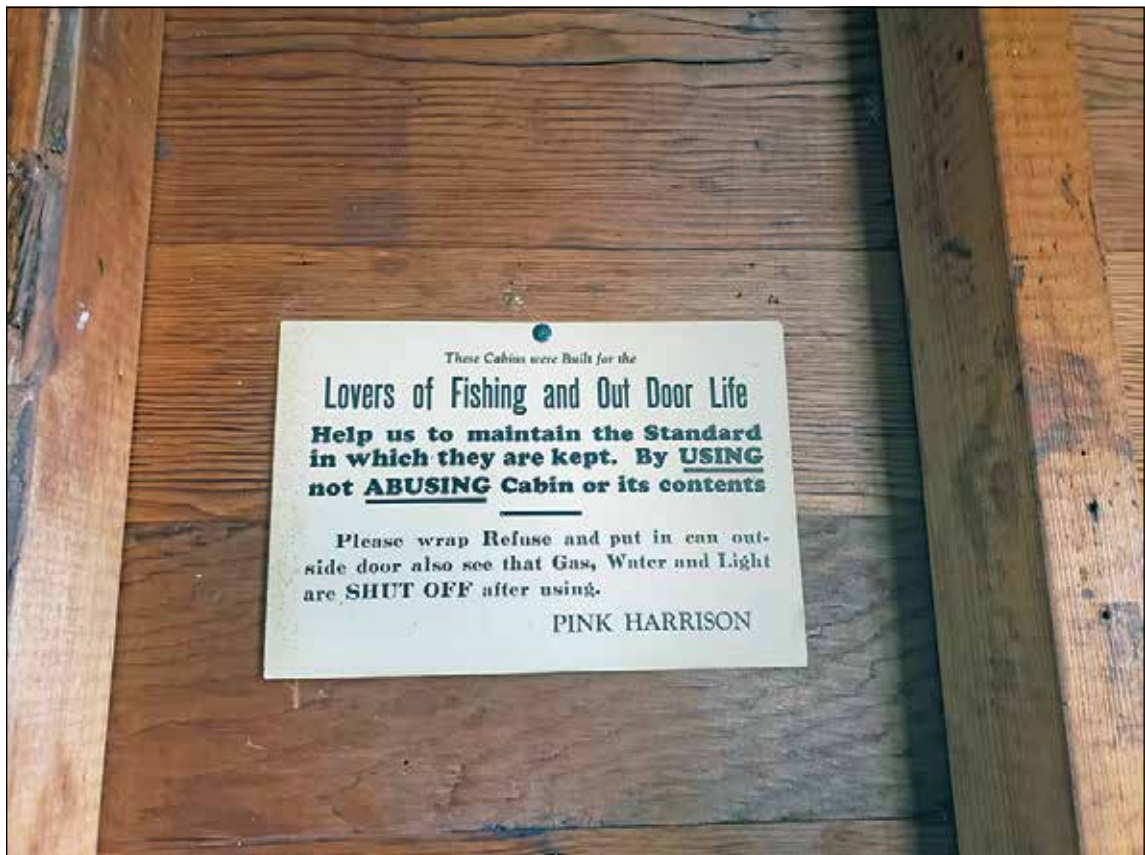
By the 1950s, the resort – often referred to as "The Playground of Pistakee Bay" – consisted of 25 buildings, dozens of rental boats, nearly 300 feet of pier, boat slips, and marine gasoline service. All run with the help of their sons, Herbert and Thomas, and eventually their wives, Paula and Marilyn.

Pink died in 1953, followed by Christine in 1957. Bert went on to become a real estate appraiser. Tom took over the resort, along with the name Pink, or Pinky. Tom, Marilyn, and their six children, all pitched in to run the family resort.

Tom passed away in July 2000, followed by Marilyn in 2003. On Dec. 1, 2003, exactly 70 years after it opened, Pink Harrison's Resort closed its doors and demolition began shortly thereafter ... except for a few original cabins saved by the Tim Harrison family.

The hundreds of fishing cabins dotting the Chain O'Lakes are now long gone making this nondescript little fishing cabin not only a rarity, but a testament to another time. Folks would arrive at their Chain O'Lakes getaway by steam engine, then hire a water taxi. Mail also arrived by boat. In addition to swimming, visitors would enjoy boat tours of Egyptian lotus flowerbeds and catch their limit of panfish. And when you got home? You could tell everyone, you've gone fishin' at Pinky's!

So where did this name Pink come from? No one knows for sure, but one of the tales tells of a newborn named Frank Harrison who arrived with the pinkest little face. They called him "Pink."



The Tim Harrison family and the McHenry County Historical Society had a plaque dedication ceremony July 16 of Cabin No. 8 at the former Pink Harrison's Resort, 804 Harrison Lane in Johnsburg.





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# Enjoy a wildflower walk

Moraine Hills State Park is offering wildflower walks. The upcoming dates are Aug. 14 and Sept. 25. The walks will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and participants will meet in the Oak Opening parking area.

To register for the walk send an email to [dnr.volobog@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.volobog@illinois.gov) or call 815-344-1294. Leave a message with name, phone number and email. Participants are required to be a minimum of 10 years old.

Moraine Hills State Park is located at 1510 S. River Road in McHenry.



Moraine Hills State Park has wildflower walks scheduled for Aug. 14 and Sept. 25, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

STOCK PHOTO The Breeze

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# Walk *the* Shore Path

The Geneva Lake Shore Path features historic estates with well kept lawns and gardens, the clear blue waters of Geneva Lake with sailboats, excursion boats and antique wooden boats, according to the Visit Lake Geneva website.

The Shore Path is open for walking, but people are asked to practice social distancing along the path and stay at least 6 feet apart, keeping pets on a leash and picking up after them, and disposing water bottles and other trash in public receptacles.

The shoreline of Geneva Lake is a little more than 20 miles, but the path reaches up to almost 26 miles with it weaving in and out of the woods along the shoreline.

Native Americans created the path around Geneva Lake about 2,000 years ago to get from camps on the east side of the lake to camps on the west side.

Library Park has a plaque, which reads: "The 26-mile lakeside trail along the shore of Geneva Lake was used by several Indian cultures from 2500 BC and continuing up to 1836 AD. Chief Big Foot's Potawatomi tribe walked the trail between their villages at present Fontana, Williams Bay and one at Lake Geneva located in this park. Later the trail became the workmen's path from Lake

Geneva to summer states of wealthy Chicago families."

After the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 many Chicago natives made their way up to Geneva Lake area to build summer estates that were just as big and elegant as their Chicago homes, many of which still can be found along the shore path today.

The path has been preserved by early settlers who said that the "20 feet leading to the shoreline be preserved as public domain." Property owners were responsible then and still are today to maintain the path through each of their properties, which makes the trail very unique. Each property owner puts their own spin on their part of the shore path, some have placed benches to rest, some have artwork and some even have water stations.

The property owners along the shore path, in return for hosting the walkers, ask that visitors respect their homes and property in return by not venturing onto the lawns, gardens, piers or boathouses privately owned along the path.

Bicycles are not allowed along the shore path but dogs are welcome if they are leashed and picked up after. Strollers are not recommended on the path because of the uneven terrain, which puts little ones at risk.

As with all hiking adventures, appropriate footwear is highly recommended to deal with the ever-changing surfaces, which include cement, bricks, wood, stepping stones and gravel. In some areas, the path narrows considerable, so walkers are advised to take care when traversing the path.

The path is long at 26-miles and locals recommend taking it in sections because walking the whole path would take 8 to 10 hours for someone in average shape.

Public access points to the path include the Lake Geneva Public Library, Big Foot Beach State Park and others in Fontana and Williams Bay.

## Tips for path walkers

Visit Lake Geneva offers these tips for walking the Lake Geneva Shore Path:

- The ideal way to hike the Shore Path is to wear sturdy shoes with a good tread to prevent slipping.
- Path surfaces vary from grass, cement and brick to wood, stepping stones and gravel. Some areas are hilly, narrow or wind through wooded areas close to the shoreline. Walk with care!
- Bicycles, skates, skateboards and motorized vehicles are not permitted on the

Shore Path.

- Strollers are not recommended as portions of the path can be uneven.
- Dogs are welcome on the path as long as they are leashed and picked up after.
- The Shore Path should be used during daylight hours only.
- Walkers should leave the path with what they brought and deposit trash in public receptacles after the walk.
- Public restrooms and water fountains can be found along the Shore Path at the Visit Lake Geneva Information Center (Lake Geneva), Edgewater Park (Williams Bay), Reid Park (Fontana) and Big Foot Beach State Park (Lake Geneva).

For more information, go to [visitlakegeneva.com](http://visitlakegeneva.com).

**above:** The Lake Geneva Shore Path winds around Geneva Lake for about 26-miles and takes 8 to 10 hours to walk in its entirety. Most people walk the path in sections. **inset:** Signs along the Lake Geneva Shore path direct users to the path and various sites along the trail.





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**1998 HARRIS 28 FOOT PONTOON BOAT**, 40 hp Mercury outboard. \$3,950. Elkhorn. (262) 949-6997.

**2001 SUPRA LEGACY** Great wake boarding, wake surfing and slalom boat, bow rider, super low hours, Indmar inboard 330 hp with fuel injection. \$11,900. 630-886-6667.



## LAKES AREA CLASSIFIEDS

### BOATS FOR SALE

#### Ski Boats/Fishing Boats

**1990 Mastercraft Prostar 190**, low hours, excellent ski boat, trailer, lift kept \$7500 best (262) 949-6997

**1995 Mastercraft Sammy Duvall series**, Corvette engine, flat wakes great slalom boat \$13,500 best. (262) 742-3665

**1998 Supra Legacy**, Super low hours, clean, kept in heated garage, bow rider, great family boat. \$8500 best. (262) 949-6997

**2000 Supra Legacy**, very clean, garage/lift kept, bow rider, 275 hours, \$9995 best. (630) 886-6667

### Fishing Boats

**14 foot aluminum fishing boat**, trolling motor, oars, battery. \$395. (262) 742-3665.

### Lift and Lift Parts

**Jet ski lift**, Needs some repair \$25.00. (262) 949-6997

**Jet ski trailer**, Needs work. \$50.00. (262) 949-6997

**Shore station lift parts**, cheap. Lauderdale Lakes. (262) 742-3665

### Ski Equipment

**Ski trainer**, easy to get up on, builds confidence. \$75. Text (262) 949-6997

**Slalom ski**, 67", great shape, \$125.00. (630) 886-6667

**Skis**, doubles, nice condition. \$75.00. Text (262) 949-6997



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- Upholstery • Covers

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# Area offers great trail, road and mountain biking options

With some of the best bike trails in the state and plenty of little-traveled rustic and rural roads dotting the countryside, the Southern Lakes area provides the perfect landscape for our pedaling pleasure.

And with the pandemic creating a renewed interest in outdoor activities there's now plenty of reason to celebrate from the saddle of your favorite road, trail or hybrid bicycle.

Cycling is not only healthy, it is liberating in every sense of the word. The open air, with the sights and sounds of nature combine to bring a relaxing, rejuvenating experience that is simply second-to-none.

For today's cyclists, the cycling industry has evolved to a point where there's virtually a bike for everyone. Riders simply need to decide what style of biking best fits their desires and go from there. A word of caution though: A proper fit (bike size) is essential and you should rely on a professional to guide you in this basic decision.

## Trails abound here

Wisconsin is likely one of the most rider-friendly states in the union. Recognized as the nation's leader in "rails-to-trails" conversions, more miles of former railroad beds have been transformed for use by bicyclists in Wisconsin than any other state. Ask anyone whose ridden along these Wisconsin conversion trails and you'll learn that they're scenic, feature minimal grades with motorized traffic prohibited, provide a smooth ride and a safe, uncongested alternative for families, novices and experts looking to bike off the road.

## White River Trail

Locally, one the most well known trails is the White River State Trail. A 12-mile crushed limestone trail, it follows a former railroad bed and connects the City of Elkhorn to Burlington, also passing through the historic villages of Lyons and Springfield in the process. The trail also extends east from Highway 142 in Burlington to Kansasville and can be accessed from the Burlington High School/Gateway Technical College campus.

The trail requires an affordable daily or annual state trail pass, for those 16 and over, which can be purchased in any of several points along the path, including the communities it touches. Maps of the trail are also readily available at these points as well as online.

Scenic views of farmland, wetlands, waterways and the natural countryside are part of it's charm and it's many access points give riders a wide choice of options in how far and where they want to ride along the trail. These access points also provide convenient places to park.

## Pedal and Cup

There is a great access point to the White River Trail located just off Highway 120 in Springfield. The Pedal and Cup, a bike rental shop and cafe is in Springfield's historic railroad depot, 1722 N. Highway 120, Springfield, (262-249-1111), is just five minutes north of Lake Geneva.

They not only rent bikes, but also serve gourmet coffees, smoothies, ice cream and cold drinks. There are also biking and souvenir shirts and handcrafted gifts inside the historic depot. Find them on Facebook for more information.



Pedal & Cup in Springfield offers bike rentals on the Wisconsin White River Trail. They also have Premium Purple Door Ice Cream, Blended House Coffee, smoothies, handcrafted Wisconsin gifts. In the Historic 1911 Springfield Train Depot, which is a 5-minute drive north of Lake Geneva on Highway 120.

FILE PHOTO The Breeze

The Pedal & Cup is open Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Seven Waters Trail

Another rails to trails project, the Seven Waters Trail, took several shorter trails and consolidated them under one name once they formed a continuous route. This trail runs from Riverside Park in Burlington up through Waterford, the Town of Norway, into Wind Lake and further on into Muskego.

Just across the Wisconsin/Illinois border in Richmond, Illinois, riders will find the McHenry County Prairie Trail that stretches 26 miles from the Wisconsin State Line to Algonquin, Illinois.

The Prairie Trail follows the former Chicago and Northwestern rail line that ran from Kane County into Wisconsin. From this trail, users have access to over 100 miles of trail network including the Hebron Trail, the Fox River Trail, the Great Western Trail and the Illinois Prairie Path.

There are several points of interest along the Prairie Trail including the crown jewel of the district, Glacial Park, a 3,200-acre site and home to the Lost Valley Visitor Center. The natural area contains prairie, savanna, marshes, a bog, Nippersink Creek and a variety of geologic wonders, including kames. There are also other parks and rest stops along the way.

## Mountain bike Mecca

Riders seeking mountain biking opportunities, also have an extensive system of trails available to them in Wisconsin. In our area of the state, the John Muir trail system connecting the John

Muir trail with the Emma Carlin trail is one of the region's top mountain biking destinations.

Both located in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest in Walworth County, the Muir trail is over 27 miles consisting of five one-way loops that let riders mix and match distance and difficulty to their particular ability level or time constraints. Unlike the mildly graded "rail-to-trail" paths, these loops feature steep, gear-grinding uphill sections, fast, twisting descents and lots of rough surface terrain.

The loops are one-way for the sake of safety and to accommodate a smooth flow of traffic, even on days with a generous number of bikers on the trail. The trail offers amenities such as water, flush toilets and an indoor shelter.

The Emma Carlin Trail, which connects via a two-way connector trail halfway around the John Muir Trail on the Green loop, is more remote. Offering three loops ranging in length from 2 to 4 miles, the Carlin Trail is not for the faint-of-heart or inexperienced, all three loops featuring difficult single track sections and rocky, rooted trail surfaces on the slopes.

A dedicated group known as the Southern Kettle Moraine Chapter of IMBA is a strong advocate for the building of new mountain bikes trails in the area. You can find more information at southernkettles.org.

## The open road

With so many trail-riding options in our immediate area, many cyclists still enjoy riding on the road. The outstanding rustic roads and scenic routes in our area lend themselves well to this endeavor. Riding along any of the area's lakeshores, or

taking the chance to tour from one town to a neighboring one and visiting it's local shops and sights can be a particularly rewarding way to spend the day. Here, local chambers of commerce, visitor's bureaus, maps and the Internet can provide information and ideas for great places to bike.

The Stateline route travels along the Illinois/Wisconsin border, the south Kenosha county route takes back roads from Pleasant Prairie to Trevor, the Silver Lake route travels from Liberty corners, past Camp Lake, Silver Lake, Powers Lake and into Lake Geneva. There is a north Kenosha county route that travels through the Bong Recreation area into Burlington and routes that run from Burlington up into Rochester, Waterford, Tichigan and Wind Lake.

One of the best known is the Wisconsin Bikeway which follows Highway C from I-94 to near Twin Lakes, then passes through Trevor, Wilmot, Twin Lakes and Genoa City all the way to Lake Geneva. Several enjoyable rides can be made from East Troy to Elkhorn and onward to Delavan or Lake Geneva as well.

A map of roads in the City of Lake Geneva with recommended routes for bikers to enjoy is also readily available online and is known as the City of Lake Geneva Bike Trails. Five routes with some paths still under construction travel through areas like Sage Street to Edwards Boulevard, Highway H to Veteran's Park along Townline Road, and other areas of the city.

Additional information for biking in the area can be found at [www.dot.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov), [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org), [www.visitwalworthcounty.com](http://www.visitwalworthcounty.com), [www.lkgeneva.com](http://www.lkgeneva.com) and [www.lakegenevatourism.com](http://www.lakegenevatourism.com).



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