

Delavan Lake Breeze

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MARINE TRADING POST

BUYING, SELLING & SERVICING BOATS AND MARINE EQUIPMENT

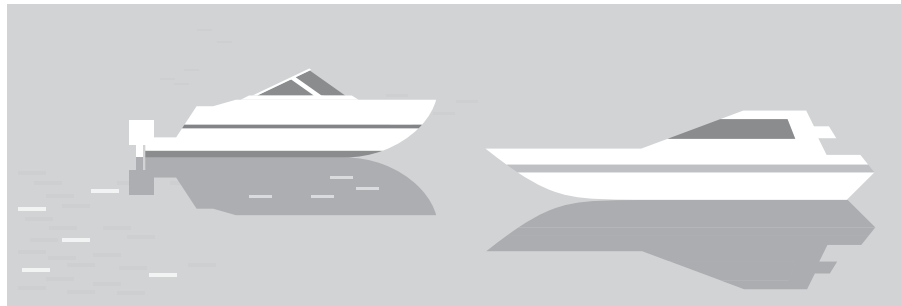
CLASSIFIEDS

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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 for resources, storage options, tips and how-tos for getting on the water, boat shopping, safety and more.

(BPT)

Delavan Lake

Breeze

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above: Enjoy your next boating adventure and be sure to use the social media hashtag #SeeYouOutHere to share your favorite moments on the water.
STOCK PHOTO The Breeze

on the cover: Katelyn Rosenow, from Delavan, and her dog, Rosie, enjoy a day kayaking in the Delavan-Darien area.
HEIDI SCHULZ The Breeze



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *The Breeze*

Staying safe on area waterways

DNR says: boat sober and wear a life jacket

By Jason Arndt
STAFF WRITER

Southeast Wisconsin is home to many waterways, both large and small, and staying safe while boating is critical, especially as thousands of people visit area lakes.

According to the state Department of Natural Resources, nearly 80% of fatal boating accidents involve drowning, which can happen to even the most experienced swimmers.

Most people who drown in boating accidents know how to swim, however, they can become incapacitated in the water by experiencing an injury, among other factors.

Recently, in Kenosha County, a 22-year-old Kenosha man not wearing a life jacket drowned after he jumped into Silver Lake with a 5-year-old girl. She survived because she had a personal floatation device.

Authorities eventually recovered the

man's body after several hours of searching by dive teams from southeast Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

DNR Conservation Warden Jason Roberts has overseen this portion of the state for about 20 years and said drowning deaths of people not wearing a life jacket is the most common.

"It is primarily people who don't have life jackets on," he said. "I know that sounds pretty basic, but when you look at the incidents on the water, it is mainly drowning."

Roberts said drowning deaths typically happen when people jump from a boat into the water to take a swim.

"If you are going to swim from your boat, or jump from your boat, put on a life jacket," he said.

The DNR recommends newer life jackets, which are more comfortable and lightweight, compared to the bulky orange style onboard most boats.

The newer styles, DNR officials say,



above: A trio on a boat enjoys the spring sunshine on Lake Mary earlier this year. **top:** A family takes advantage of a sunny day as it pedals out onto the lake. Paddleboats encourage youth to get out on the water, but life jackets are strongly encouraged for safety.

JASON ARNDT *The Breeze*



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offer better benefits for boaters and swimmers.

“There are innovative options, such as inflatable life jackets, allowing mobility and flexibility for boating, fishing, paddling or hunting and are much cooler in warmer weather,” the DNR said in a recent news release.

Fatal crashes increase

In 2021, there were 25 deaths related to boating incidents, according to a DNR’s annual report, matching the 2018 numbers for the most fatalities in more than a decade.

The increased deaths related to boating crashes come even after the state saw the second lowest total of reported injuries at 61 since 2011.

As of late May, prior to the recent Silver Lake drowning, four people in Wisconsin died from boating incidents.

Operator inexperience, inattention, recklessness and speeding are the four leading causes of tragic watercraft crashes in the state.

“You really have to be aware of your surroundings,” Roberts said.

Alcohol use is another leading factor in recreational boating fatalities.

The DNR urges boaters, who may have plans to use alcohol, also plan ahead to stay safe by having a designated operator.

“It is really about personal responsibility and respect for the water around you and the people who use it,” Roberts said.

As for people who jump from a boat to swim, Roberts said open water carries risks, especially true for larger bodies of water such as Geneva Lake.

That lake, unlike smaller ones, typically sees higher boating traffic as well as unpredictable waves, he said.

“Swimming in open water, especially like Lake Geneva, you are dealing with pretty big waves and a lot of vessels,” he said.

Boating boom

The National Marine Manufacturers Association, a leading trade association representing boat, marine engine and accessory manufacturers, noted an economic boom in sales since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

New boat sales reached a 13-year high in 2020 and remained at elevated midway through last summer.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *The Breeze*

Association President Frank Hugelmeier said in a news release consumers have opted for watercraft as another recreational opportunity.

“As the country returns to a new normal, people are reassessing how they spend their quality time with loved ones, and many are continuing to choose boating as the preferred choice in recreation,” he said. “All signs point to boating demand and boat sales remaining strong as more people discover the mental health benefits, joys and freedoms of being outside and on the water.”

The sales boom has also led to a substantial increase in traffic on local lakes, including in Wisconsin.

Roberts said compared to before the pandemic, most lakes in the state have become more crowded with boats.

“The volume that you would have seen on the weekends is now what you would see on the weekdays and the volume that you would see on the weekends is similar to what we have seen on the holidays,” Roberts said. “It is really jam packed out there and that is one of the reasons why you’ve got to be mindful of what the rules and regulations are as far as safe operation.”

Although the state has regulations, Roberts said boaters should also be aware of local rules, as some have implemented their own.

DNR officials reiterated taking simple precautions while out on the waterways amid increased volume during the summer months.

“The easiest and most important thing for people to remember is to boat sober and wear their life jackets,” the DNR states. “Statistics show boaters who wear life jackets and take boater safety courses are most likely to stay safe on Wisconsin waters.”

WATER SAFETY TIPS

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources encourages people to have fun on the water, ranging from recreational opportunities such as fishing, kayaking or boating, but offers some simple suggestions on how to stay safe.

The department’s tips include leaving alcohol onshore, using and maintaining proper safety equipment, staying aware on paddle boards, monitoring weather conditions and staying in communication with others.

The DNR urges boaters to never use drugs or alcohol before or during boat operation because people are more sensitive to sunlight, glare, wind and noise while under the influence.

As for equipment, recommendations include having a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person onboard, one approved, throwable flotation device for any boat 16-feet and longer, a fire extinguisher, operable boat lights and emergency supplies such as a cell phone, maps, flares and a first aid kit.

Additionally, a watercraft’s weight plays a role in safe handling, the DNR website said.

“Overloading a boat with gear or passengers will make the boat unstable and increase the risk of capsizing or swamping,” the website states. “Abide by the boats capacity plate which (is) located near the boat operators position.”

Kayak, canoes, paddleboards

It’s important to keep in mind that life jackets re not limited to boats and other motorized craft.

According to state and U.S. Coast Guard regulations, kayaks and canoes carry the same safety suggestions as paddleboards.

Other paddle board safety tips include carrying a whistle, having swimming competency, having training in self-rescue and towing another board, understanding the elements and hazards, and knowing local regulation and navigation rules.

Be weather aware

Regardless of the season, boaters should monitor the weather and bring a radio along, according to the DNR.

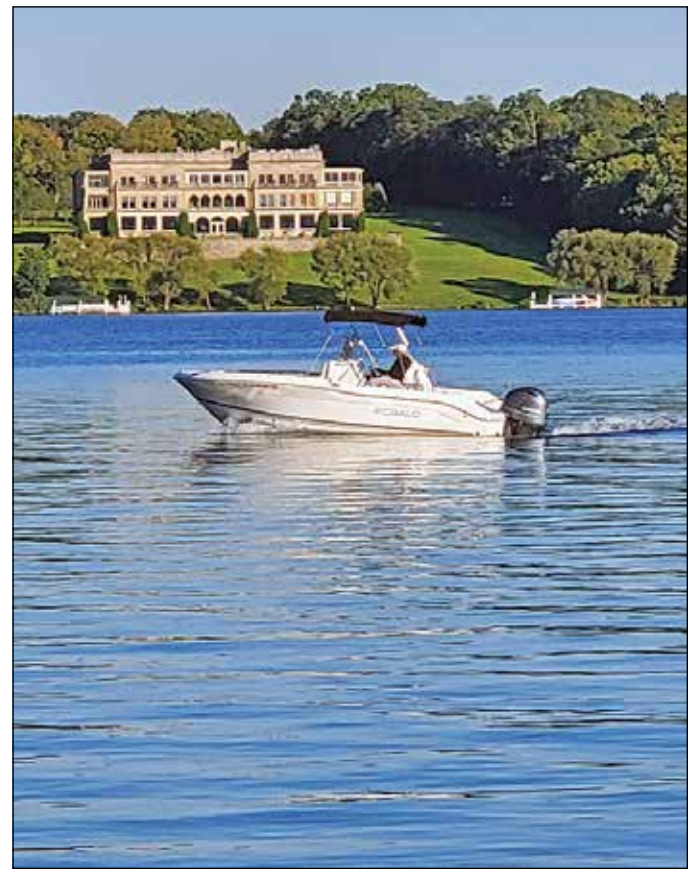
“Sudden wind shift, lightning flashes and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing,” the DNR website states. “If bad weather is approaching, get off the water early to avoid a long waiting line (at launches) in inclement weather.”

As for water conditions, cold temperatures are prevalent in the spring, which authorities said can reduce a user’s margin for error on the water.

“If you fall in or your boat capsizes, you may have as little as two minutes before losing your ability to move your muscles and get back in the boat or seek help,” the DNR states.

For more boating safety tips, including how to enroll in safety courses, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov and search, “Boat Safety.”

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, dnr.wi.gov.



above: Pontoon boats are a popular choice for families looking to spend time out on the water. **right:** Geneva Lake is a favorite spot for boating activities in the Southern Lakes area. **top:** A group of friends spend time on the water sharing activities including kayaking and wind surfing.

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Pre-owned boat sales skyrocket

Shrinking inventory squeezes market

Do you have a boat you're thinking of selling? Maybe you want to upgrade or are taking a year off. No matter your reason for selling a boat, now is the ideal time to list it, sell it quickly and make top dollar for it.

The global market analysis report from Boat Trader found the surge in consumer demand for boats that began at the start of the pandemic continued to surge through 2021. The wave continues into 2022 as more people look to get out and enjoy time on the water with friends and family.

Although there are plenty of interested buyers, boat inventory remains low, which means boats are selling much faster and for higher prices. In 2021 compared to 2020, days on the market were down globally by 100 days and by 50 days in the U.S. What's more, the overall value of sold boats skyrocketed across the globe, surpassing 2020 values by 34%.

Demand and boat values are expected to increase throughout 2022, particularly for pre-owned boats. Inventory constraints continue, creating a limited supply of new boats, so as more people want to get on the water, they are looking to pre-owned options to fill their water lust.

Many boat manufacturers have reported they are sold out of inventory for at least the upcoming season. In future years, they are hopeful supply chain issues will resolve and more inventory will be available. Additionally, some market experts expect interest rates to increase in the future, which will likely drive down the value of boats.

What does this mean if you're a boat owner thinking of selling or upgrading?



Demand and boat values are expected to increase throughout 2022, particularly for pre-owned boats. Inventory constraints continue, creating a limited supply of new boats, so as more people want to get on the water, they are looking to pre-owned options to fill their water lust.

STOCK PHOTO *The Breeze*

Now is the time to take action so you can get the most money while demand is high and values are up.

"People can get top dollar for their pre-owned boats as demand continues to outpace supply," said Brian Wolf, chief operating officer, at Boat Trader, America's largest boating marketplace. "The key is to list your boat in a way that boosts appeal while providing ample information to anyone actively looking to buy."

Listing on a marketplace like Boat Trader that specializes in only boats helps target highly qualified shoppers. This trusted

website has a 30-year legacy of helping people sell their boats, with advanced fraud monitoring and tools to make listing your boat simple. The site's extensive reach to interested people around the country means more leads and the ability to list your boat for a higher price, not to mention dedicated customer service to help you at any time.

To help sell your boat faster and for top dollar, Wolf shares some insider tips:

Go into the details

Listings without much information are confusing to potential buyers who may

not have the time to reach out for the details. Therefore, make sure your listing has critical information. Boat Trader makes this easy with its B.L.A.S.T. data feature, standing for Build Listings And Save Time, which populates listings with manufacturer specs and photos quickly.

Pictures and video tell a story

With clear, enticing visuals, people can truly experience your boat even if they live many miles away. Upload multiple photos to encourage engagement, targeting the 10-30 range. With more people looking online, consider adding video tours that can really showcase your boat to potential buyers, which can increase listing activity.

Market price

With the market changing so quickly it can be difficult to determine the best price for your listing. Too low and you may lose money. Too high and your boat will get overlooked. To determine an accurate price range for your boat, look at listings for similar boats in similar condition. You can also try out boat pricing tools online.

Be responsive

Demand is high, so take advantage of any interest by responding to inquiries in a timely manner. This will help you build trust with potential buyers and sell your boat sooner. Responding within 24 hours is ideal, otherwise that potential buyer may sail on to different seas.

(BPT)

New resource available for lakeshore properties

The new online Lakeshore Resource Guide for Walworth County is now available to provide lakeshore property owners, managers, residents, and hired professionals the resources they need for living on, managing, and working at these properties for the benefit of the lake.

Construction, landscaping, yard maintenance, lawn care and other practices are different for lakeshore properties. Practices done on a suburban or urban property can be detrimental to the lakeshore environment. Using the resources in the guide, those on the lake can manage and maintain their property to preserve the shoreline, water quality, and overall ecology.

The contributions of many local and regional organizations, government agencies, lake associations and residents created the online Lakeshore Resource Guide for Walworth County.

The guide features links to credible, trustworthy resources free of bias and backed by research and evidence. Topics include landscaping practices, invasive species, property development, and questions to ask when hiring professionals as well as other educational resources.

Look for the online Lakeshore Resource Guide on the county's Land Use and Resource Management website at bit.ly/3zrq3IM.

For more information, contact UW-Madison Division of Extension Walworth County Horticulture Outreach Specialist Julie Hill at julie.hill@wisc.edu.



Lakeshore properties have special needs to maintain the lakefront. Walworth County has a new online tool to help property owners preserve their shorelines.

STOCK PHOTO *The Breeze*

Delavan Lake beach closed for 11 days

Blue-green algae to blame for Community Park beach issues



A blue-green algae bloom on Delavan Lake closed the Delavan Lake Community Park Beach June 30 through July 11. The algae is toxic, especially to small children and animals.

JENNIFER EISENBART *The Breeze*

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

At the time of year where most people are looking for ways to cool off, the closure of a popular community beach in Delavan wasn't the news they want to hear.

Delavan Lake Community Park beach reopened July 12 after closing June 30, including the hot Fourth of July holiday and the week following.

The cause? A blue-green algae bloom, which differs from regular algae and can create a host of issues for both humans and their pets.

Walworth County placed a news release on its website shortly before the Fourth of July weekend, outlining what the cause of the closure was and the harm the bloom could cause.

"Swimmers, boaters, and recreational users are urged to be aware of the condition of the water around them and avoid direct contact with water that looks like pea soup or smells foul, two indicators of the presence of blue-green algae," the release continued. "Children and pets are particularly susceptible to health problems related to blue-green algae and should be kept away from affected lake areas."

No other Walworth County beaches have been flagged with the problem yet, but Chloe Edgren, an environmental health specialist with the Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services,

said the issue is common with the current weather conditions.

"Blue-green algae are natural parts of lake ecosystems but algal blooms are when the algal population grows very quickly and overwhelms part of a water system," she explained. "Typically with lots of sunlight, warm water, little wind, and high levels of nutrients such as phosphorous, the likelihood of having an algal bloom occur are higher."

The blooms can make people and animals sick if they swallow, breathe in or even have contact with the water. The DNR recommends swimming in the clearest water possible, and avoid water that looks like spilled latex paint, pea soup, is discolored or streaky, has small green dots floating in it, floating scum or dead fish or other animals.

"It is recommended when people and pets come in contact or suspected contact with blue-green algal or an algal bloom to rinse off thoroughly so no skin irritation occurs and to ensure no one consumes the water," Edgren said.

Symptoms of illness from the algae can include: vomiting, diarrhea, headache, abdominal pain, cough, sore throat, skin rash or blistering.

If any of the symptoms develop, seek medical care or call the Wisconsin Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. If pets develop symptoms, immediately take them to a veterinarian.

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