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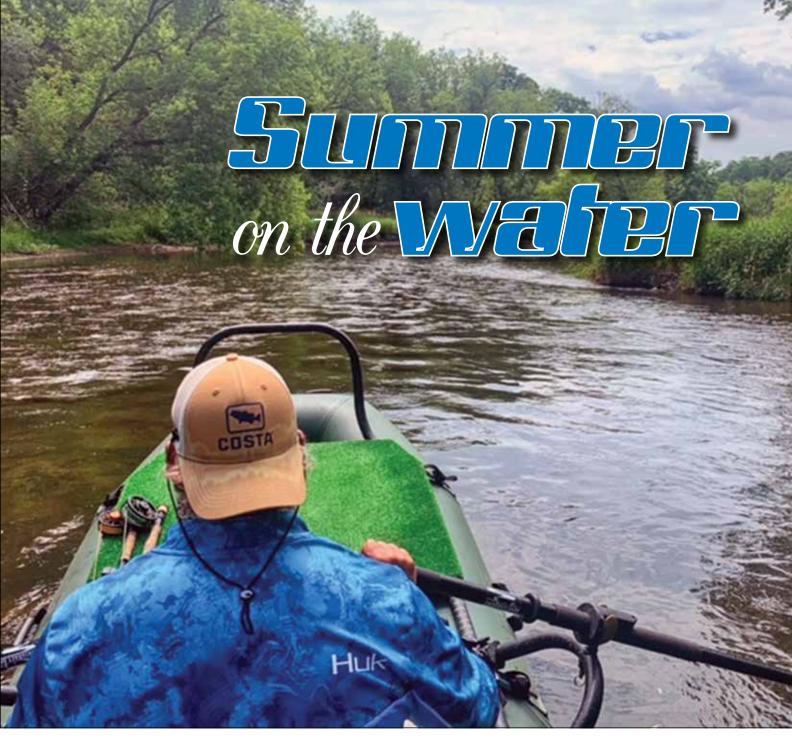
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Chain O'Lakes offers cool times during hot weather

by Sandra Landen Machaj

CORRESPONDENT

It is that time of year again when the piers have all been replaced along the shores of the Chain O'Lakes and the boats that have been in storage throughout the winter are now back at home, being

polished up by their owners anxious to return to activities on the water.

The opening of the Chain O'Lakes for boat traffic is always the sign that spring is here and summer is not far behind. The Chain extends from the Wisconsin Illinois border where the Fox River meanders through 10 of the 15 lakes and channels that make up the Chain O'Lakes.

The Chain O'Lakes begins at the Wisconsin border where the Fox River enters into the most northerly lake of the chain, Lake Catherine in Antioch and meanders down ending at Pistakee Lake

near Johnsburg where the Fox River exits the Chain O'Lakes and continues south through McHenry.

Because of the length of the Chain O'Lakes, and the flow of water through the chain, it is known for attracting more boats than any other inland waterway in the United States during the warm summer months. The boats seen on the chain are both those owned by local residents and visitors from both the Chicago and the Milwaukee Area, who make their way to the Chain to enjoy boating on this gorgeous inland waterway.

A local angler heads for his special fishing spot on the Chain O'Lakes, where he will enjoy a quiet time on the water. Fishermen can be protective of their "hot spots" and don't often share their favorite locations.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE KADER Catch all the Action

"Prior to the 2008 financial crash, we attracted about 28,000 boats to the area each season," said Joe Keller, executive director of the Fox Waterway Agency. "After the crash the number diminished to approximately 22,000 each season."

Keeping the entire Chain O'Lakes clean and navigable has been the job of the Fox Waterway Agency since it was created in 1984. Their purpose is to improve and maintain the Fox River and the Chain O'Lakes public waterway for recreational use, and to restore environmental quality, manage flooding, promote tourism, and enhance the quality of life along the waterway for both residents and tourists alike, a job they have successfully accomplished over the years.

During the pandemic, many families returned to the water, as a good way for outdoor activity for their family. Fishing, boat rides through the chain, and water skiing became favorite activities that families could enjoy and still maintain their distance from others. After spending so much time indoors during the pandemic, family members were even more ready to be out of doors than they normally are after a long cold winter.

Many families that sold their boats during the financial crash, feeling they could no longer afford the cost of the boat, insurance, licenses and gasoline, have since repurchased boats or have chosen to lease them to get the family out of the house and back on the water.

right: Choose from a large variety of colorful lures to attract a variety of fish. below: Triangle Sports and Marine is at 23480 W. Grass Lake Road, Antioch. It has been the place for all things fishing since 1948. Current owners Kit and Greg Dickson are pictured here.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Catch all the Action









SUBMITTED PHOTOS Catch all the Action

No matter what type of boat that you are placing in the water, they must have a State of Illinois registration. It can be purchased at www.dnrillinois.gov. In addition, any boat that is planning to enter the Chain O Lakes, must display a Fox Waterway Agency sticker. These can be purchased on line at www.foxwaterway,com or at the Waterway office, 45 S. Pistakee Lake Road, Fox Lake. Contact them by phone at 847-587-8540 for more information.

Fishing

Fishing is one of the most popular activities on the Chain O'Lakes. With so many different lakes, and each one so different from the others, there is a variety of habitats to attract different fish.

Some of the lakes such as Grass Lake, which was once the home of the lotus beds, is a very shallow lake, forcing the boats to stay toward the middle to avoid hitting the ground. This allows for more quiet spots closer to the shore for fish to gather and attracts those fishing. Some of the

other lakes such as Pistakee is now much deeper than it was before the installation of the dam in McHenry. Their depth is also somewhat controlled by the Waterway Commission who decides when to open or close the dam.

The Indigenous peoples who made their home in this area found this to be the perfect place for fishing and hunting. With the large numbers of fish and water fowl available, there was always food for all the member of the tribes. Today's residents and visitors continue to enjoy fishing in the chain

People of all ages, from young children who experience the thrill of catching their first little sunfish to the professional sport fisherman, landing fish weighing hundreds of pounds, enjoy the sport of fishing.

Fishing is a sport that helps teaches patience and perseverance as one sits back and waits for the fish to nibble. It is the fish that leads as the fisherman awaits that nibble before the fisherman has to use his skills to land the fish. It is a sport that can





be enjoyed alone or with friends or family.

Located on Grass Lake Road in Antioch, Triangle Sports and Marine is the place to go for both the new fisherman or the experienced one.

Triangle Sports and Marine was opened in 1948 by Robert and Toni Dickson as a place that provided fresh bait and other products needed by the local fisherman. Today the shop continues to be the favorite of both local and visiting fisherman. It is still family run with Greg Dickson, Son of Robert and Toni, owning the store since 1977 and sharing the fishing knowledge he gained from growing up in the store and on the lake. The next generation, his daughter Chelsea, is also involved in the business.

"The Chain is the perfect place to fish," Greg Dickson said. "There is a great variety of fish found here, from varieties of the small pan fish such as croppies, blue gills, and perch to larger fish such as muskies, Northern pike, catfish, both large and small mouth bass, and even walleye. All the species are found in all the lakes



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of the Chain but where to find them is dependent on time of year and weather as they move around."

The bait the fish are willing to nibble on, changes throughout the season Dickson said.

"It all depends what the fish want to eat," he explained.

Because the staff at Triangle Sports and Marine spend time each day with avid fishermen and are often out fishing themselves, they are aware of where the different species of fish are biting and what their choice of bait is at the time. They are always ready to help visitors find an area where they will hopefully be successful.

For those just beginning to fish here is some advice on how to begin:

- Seek out a store where you are comfortable asking questions about where to look for fish, and what materials to use including rods, bait, and flies until you are sure you know what to do.
- Purchase your fishing license. Many bait stores carry them such as Triangle Sports.
- If you are unfamiliar with the area, get a map to help you on your way.
- Decide if you are fishing to catch and release or are you looking for fish that you can take home for dinner.
 - Fish with someone for safety.

"Even though our customers confide in us about fishing spots they have found, there is a code of ethics about sharing specific favorite fishing spots." Dickson said. "While we are always willing to direct customers to the areas where the fish they are looking for are found and biting, but we do not give out their special spots but rather t lead you to where the fish are currently found and biting, so you can locate your own favorite fishing spot."

Walking into Triangle Sports and Marine, you will be overwhelmed by the amount of fishing equipment that is on display and the knowledge of the staff. They are the largest independent bait and tackle store on the chain. If you are new to fishing on the chain, they will steer you to the correct poles, bait, lures, and other equipment that may be needed for the type of fish you plan to pursue. If you are knowledgeable fisherman, they will help you upgrade any equipment that you may need.

Frequently, they are asked when is the best time to fish. The simplest answer, Dickson said, is whenever the fish are biting. Early morning and evening are often considered the best time to fish but fish can be caught throughout the day. In the hot summer, mid-day is often too hot to sit in a boat and fish. Be sure to wear sun screen and a hat if out in the blazing sun.

While many consider fishing as a warmweather sport, it is usually a year round activity in the Chain O'Lakes region. In the





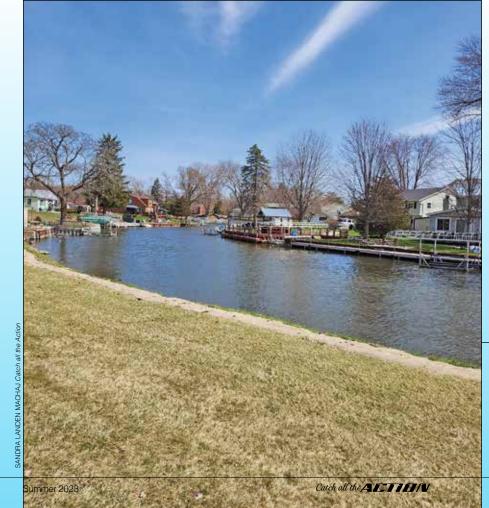
winter ice fishing brings out the fishermen.

This has been a strange winter. Relatively mild with less snow than usual, Dickson said this has not been a good winter for ice fishing as the constant freeze and thaw periods did not allow a thick solid ice to form.

"There were only five days that we felt the ice was solid enough for ice fisherman to safely head out to fish," Dickson said. "In a normal winter there are usually about 45 days of safe ice fishing. When ice fishing, always go with someone for safety and fish in areas where there are others around."

The more you learn about fishing, the more you will learn to enjoy it, adding another fun family activity to your summer on the lake and perhaps even your winter.

Triangle Sports and Marine is 1 at 23480 W. Grass Lake Road, Antioch. The store is open every day except Christmas. Summer hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends.



top: Greg Dickson and a friend aboard a fishing boat ready to find the perfect fishing pot for the day. above: Because of its size, this catch requires two fisherman to hold it. at left: Sometimes, the best areas for fishing are in the channels or canals.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Catch all the Action

Adventure awaits

Ways to soak up summer on the water

Summer fun is right around the corner, and boating is the perfect addition to your bucket list. No boat? No problem. There are plenty of ways to get on the water and enjoy the unique adventures only boating provides, in addition to its many wellness benefits. Studies show being on the water boosts creativity, happiness, relaxation and mental health.

"Americans today prioritize experiences, work-life balance and outdoor recreation. There's no better way to do that than spending time on the water with loved ones," said Ellen Bradley, Discover Boating senior vice-president. "Boating delivers fun, freedom and relaxation in a special way you can't get on land - and we're seeing more people giving it a try than ever before as they learn about the proven benefits of time on the water."

Whether you're into fishing, watersports, riding personal watercraft, sailing or simply cruising around the open waters, boating offers something for everyone, and it's more accessible than you may think. Boaters come from all walks of life, backgrounds and areas of the country, with an estimated 100 million Americans going boating each year, according to the National Marine Manufacturers Association.



top: Water sports are a big draw to local lakes, from JetSkiing to water skiing to wake boarding to boating, the lakes are buzzing with activity in the summer. above: Fishing has fans of all ages and abilities. The family friendly activity is a great way to strengthen relationships.

STOCK PHOTOS Catch all the Action

Discover Boating, the leading resource for all things boating, helps people find easy ways to get on the water and provides tools and articles to get started. Check out these tips to start planning your next onwater adventure and make the memories of a lifetime this summer.

RENT OR SHARE A BOAT

Rental options are available on most

waterways and provide hourly, daily or weekly access to a variety of boat types. Rental outfitters should provide tutorials on operating a boat, share safety instructions and offer suggestions on destinations. Another option is peer-topeer boat sharing, which allows you to rent boats near you directly through the boat owners and offers the choice to hire a captain.

JOIN A BOAT CLUB

Boat clubs offer access to a variety of boats. You'll pay a monthly fee and be able to book your time on the water online. Most boat clubs take care of docking, cleaning, maintenance and boat training courses.

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 U.S.

FIND YOUR DREAM BOAT

Chart your own course to boat ownership by visiting DiscoverBoating. com, where you'll find resources such as the boat finder and loan calculator to help you find a boat that fits your budget, lifestyle and interests.

Visit Discover Boating's Go Boating Today tool to find out how you can secure your boating vacation ondemand this summer. Use the social media hashtag #SeeYouOutHere to share your boating.

(BPT)



above: Swimming on local lakes is a great way to cool off on a hot summer's day. **below:** Boating in Wisconsin starts in spring and doesn't wrap up until fall.

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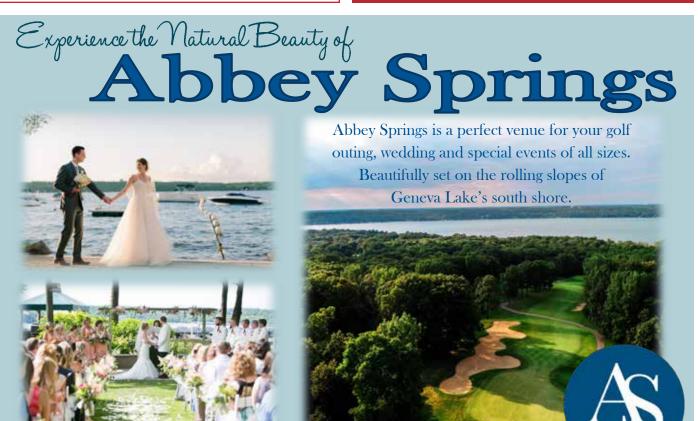


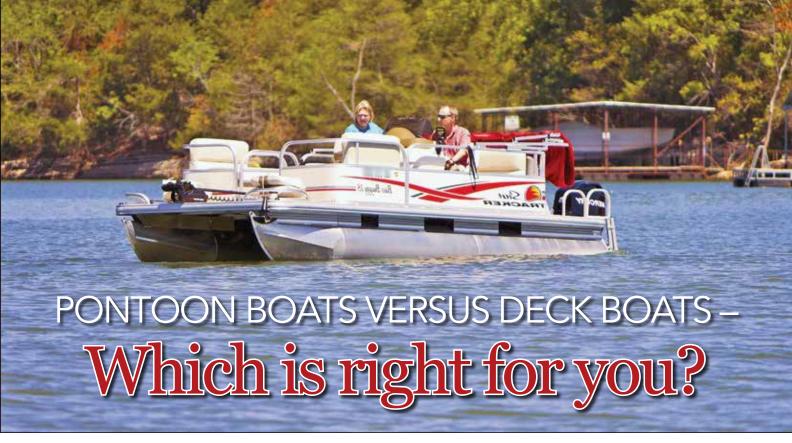
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Pontoon boats are incredibly popular all across the nation, as are deck boats. In fact, these two boat types share many of the same features and advantages, and if you're in the market for a new boat it can be incredibly hard to choose between the two.

So, which will be best for you and your family? Will you pick a pontoon boat, or do you think a deck boat would be delightful? Truth be told, in many regards you can't go wrong either way – both types of boats are loads of fun. But as you try to determine which would be ideal for you and yours, Discover Boating encourages you to consider the following:

VERSATILITY AND CUSTOMIZATION

One of the great things about pontoon boats is that they're available in virtually countless different deck layouts, shapes, and sizes. In many cases you can pick and choose between where you want a lounger, versus a sofa, versus a pair of fishing chairs. You can also choose to add activity-specific features, like a tow pylon for watersports or integrated cooler compartments for day cruising. So, you can make a pontoon boat just as versatile – or specialized – as you'd like.

Deck boats, on the other hand, are generally fiberglass boats with rigid hulls and decks. As a result, many of the features are molded in and the floorplans usually aren't as customizable. This may seem to put deck boats at a bit of a disadvantage, but there's also an up-side. With the fiberglass construction the builder can mold in things like steering consoles, ski lockers, and seat bases. That can give the boat a very clean look and a solid feel.

PERFORMANCE AND SEAKEEPING ABILITIES

There was a time when deck boats would have been the hands-down winner in this category. Generally speaking, a single fiberglass hull can accept more horsepower and ride through the waves better than a pair of aluminum "logs" can. These days, however, triple-log pontoon boats, often called "tri-toons' are quite common. And having that third log makes a huge difference in a pontoon boat's performance and sea keeping abilities. Today, it's not unusual to see tri-toons with huge outboards or even twin outboard engines, which go fast enough to whip the hat right off of your head. And they do quite well in choppy waters, as compared to the pontoons of yesteryear.

That said, all other factors (like size and weight) being equal, most people would still say that the monohull deck boats have a bit of an advantage when it comes to handling rough seas. Most also benefit from having less windage, so they may be easier to dock or load on a trailer in a stiff breeze.

COST OF THE BOATS

No matter what your boating budget may be, cost is a consideration most people will take into account when comparing pontoons and deck boats.

In smaller, less expensive size ranges, pontoons usually win out in this regard. There are plenty of relatively small pontoons with low-power outboards, which are very inexpensive. There are some small and inexpensive deck boats, too, but there are far fewer are on the market and foot for foot, the pontoons generally cost less.

When it comes to larger model boats, however, this advantage usually evaporates. Many of today's pontoon boats are exceptionally well equipped with luxury features, accessories, and powerful engines, and they can get every bit as expensive as a comparable deck boat – sometimes even more so.

THE BOTTOM LINE

So, what's the bottom line? That will depend on how you prioritize the above factors, personally. In some cases the pontoon boat will prove to be the better pick, while in others a deck boat will be the right move. And this is a call that only you can make. We do know one thing for sure, though – choosing either will be a major lifestyle upgrade. Make your final call and then get ready for endless fun out on the water.

For more information, visit discoverboating.com.

When considering between a pontoon boat and deck boat consider the available versatility and customization options, performance and sea-keeping abilities and the cost before making a purchase.

STOCK PHOTO Catch all the Action

Wizards Weekend

Antioch, IL,
June 24
A Magical Day

AntiochChamber.org



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Wizard's Village
Magical Moments
Magical Meetups
Scavenger Hunt
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Wizard's Weekend Day returns June 24

by Sandra Landen Machaj

CORRESPONDENT

Visitors to downtown Antioch on Saturday, June 24, will be surprised to see that it has a very different look than normally found on a weekend day. It is not the Antioch of old, rather the town has been magically transformed into a special world, the world of wizards, witches, and even muggles.

Even the local stores, which may have been so familiar to you, now have a different look and many have a different name, more in tune with the wonderful world of wizardry.

For the fifth year, magical folk, and those who wish to become them, will

gather in downtown Antioch, for a Harry Potter themed event – Wizards Weekend Day. This most magical of all events will once again be the home of many new experiences to be enjoyed by wizards, witches and muggles.

New this year

This year, new magical experiences include a magical meetup with favorite professors and wizards, a game of Quidditch, and a climb on the Azkaban Prison Tower along with other new and exciting activities. Each day new activities are being added to Wizards Weekend Day so keep up to date by checking the Facebook page or the Antioch Chamber of Commerce website.

To start the day, adults and children will gather in downtown Antioch dressed as their favorite character. Armed with their wand (or perhaps their smart wand also known as a cell phone) they will be ready to participate in special wizards' fun activities throughout the day.

The day will begin with a visit to downtown Antioch, where a search will be made for the Ministry of Magic Information Booth. It is here that the Marauders Map can be obtained with the purchase of the magical band that will allow visitors to enjoy the many magical moments fun activities. The map will identify the magical village shops with their Wizards Weekend Day special identifying names. It will also contain the hours that the various events will take place.

Enjoy the magical craft pop-ups where visitors are certain to find all their wizardly desires. The craft pop-ups are located in the heart of Wizard Village, adjacent to the Ministry of Magic booth. Take the time to shop the magical craft pop-ups for uniquely crafted wizard items to add to your collection.

For the kids

The highlight of Wizards Weekend Day, for children age 7 to 13, who are in love

One of the young wizards poses on the flying broom during a past Wizards Weekend Day. Broom flying is one of the skills young wizards must master at the Kids Hogwarts School of Magic.





top: With a large snake wrapped around her neck this Witch is a very formidable creature, one that will scare some while others will be excited to pet her snake. **at right:** Two of the professors from the School of Magic pose after the completion of classes.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Catch all the Action

with the idea of becoming a wizard or witch, will be attendance in the Kids Hogwarts School of Magic. This will not only be the start of their day but most likely the most interesting event of their day, as they participate a variety of classes to hone their wizarding skills.

The students will be sorted into four magical groups, just as they are in Harry Potter's world. In these groups, they will work with others to learn new wizarding or witching skills or to improve the ones they already have.

While each student may have chosen to dress for a different House than the one they are magically sorted into, it is not a problem. They will find their niche in the house that they have been assigned to by the magic sorter. For the magic sorter knows which house they are best suited to enjoy.

The classes include, but are not limited to, Defense Against the Dark Arts, Care of Magical Creatures, and everyone's favorite Broom Flying. Other magical classes are still being developed and will be eagerly added to the schedule.

The classes will begin at 9 a.m. and finish at 11:30 a.m. Check in begins at 8:30 a.m. so that classes will be able to promptly begin at 9 a.m. There is so much to learn and so little time to do so.

It is recommended that students bring their own, or their parents' smart wand (also known as a cell phone) to be used for photos. The regular wand is not needed as they will be provided to the students in class.

The classes are held indoors and students will be picked up by parents at the end of the Kids Hogwarts's School of Magic when they are dismissed after completing their classes.

Tickets for classes are limited and must be purchased ahead of time to secure a spot in the class. They may be purchased either online at www.wizardsweekend.com or at www.antiochchamber. org prior to Wizards Weekend Day.

Register young wizards or witchs soon so they are not disappointed by the class filling up before their applications are received. Just like any school, an acceptance letter will be sent to those who are accepted. These letters will be sent by snail mail so get your application in early so there is ample time for it to be sent to you.

Grown up fun

So, what is there for Mom and Dad to do while their children are in class? What else, but shop or if they have purchased their arm band begin to enjoy all the Magical Moments which are available for wizards, witches and muggles of all ages.

Remember it is only the Kids Hogwarts School pf Magic that is limited to those from 7 to 13 years of age.

Begin with a visit to the magical pop-up crafts and enjoy the Wizard Shops in downtown Antioch to make the 2-1/2 hours the children are in classes pass quickly.

While parents may believe they know the downtown shops well, on this day they will have a new look as they develop their magic wizardry looks. The Wizard Village shops will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plenty of time for shopping and for enjoying the many magical events to be found here.

The afternoon is a busy time on Wizards Weekend Day. The stores in Wizards Village will be open for shopping and to participate in a variety of magical events inside the shops for those who have purchased and are wearing their wristbands.

The Magical Scavenger Hunt which can be completed anytime between 10 am to 3 pm begins by using your magical map as you meander through the downtown magical shops following the spiders to find all seven of the Horcruxes.

At each of the Horcrux items don't forget to use your Collins Camera, perhaps you know it as your cell phone camera, to take a selfie or two of yourself at each Horcrux to prove that you actually found them.

Once you have located each of the Horcrux and taken your selfie there, it is time to take them all over to the Minister of Magic Booth by 3:30 p.m. and share your selfies to be entered into the chance to win a handmade Nimbus 2000 Broom which will be



given to one lucky winner.

New this year is an event specifically for the adults. The Tri Wizard Potion Crawl will begin at 4 p.m. and continue until whenever the party ends. It will start with a kick-off party to meet your favorite Professors or Wizards. There is a separate ticket that must be purchased (by adults only), to participate in the Tri Wizard Potion Crawl. Deadline for purchase of these tickets is June 5.

You will receive the magic band along with the Potion Crawl ticket to enjoy magic moments in the Wizard Village from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then be ready to join the kick-off party at 4 pm and begin the Wizard Potion Crawl.

All adults on the Potion Crawl will receive their own magical swag and will include potent samples of magical beverages and magical bites. The party will move along to various participating locations where the adults will receive 20% off all food and drink at participating magical venues.

Throughout the day there are a variety of exciting magical events to enjoy and actively participate in. Tickets for these magical moments, the Kids Hogwarts School of Magic, magical meet-ups and the new magical Tri Wizard Potion Crawl and additional information about the events is available at www. wizardsweekend.com or at www.antiochchamber. org

Wizards Weekend Day is a community event hosted by the Antioch Chamber and sponsored by Raymond Chevrolet Kia and is not associated in any way with J. K. Rowling or Warner Bros Entertainment.



above: A variety of professors will meet with the visitors to Wizards Weekend Day in the afternoon in downtown Antioch. **top:** Many of the professors from the Kids Hogwarts School of Magic can be found wandering through the downtown area as they meet and greet visitors.

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Black Point Estate offers a glimpse into a bygone era

by Sandra Landen Machaj

CORRESPONDENT

isitors to Black Point, the summer cottage of Chicago beer baron Conrad Seipp and his second wife, Catharina, and their children, arrive just as visitors to Black Point did back in the 1800s and 1900s – by boat. They then climb the more than 100 stairs to the house.

While visitors back then arrived by the Sepp's private launch, to enjoy time at the cottage, today visitors arrive on a Gage Boat Lines boat, usually the Geneva, after having toured a large portion of Geneva Lake.

On the cruise, they enjoy the stories of the wealthy Chicagoans who built lavish summer cottages along the shores of Geneva Lake to escape from the hot, dirty air of the city. These cottages can be more correctly described as mansions, since many were as large, or larger, than their mansions in Chicago.

When Black Point comes into view, a large, three-story Victorian mansion in the Queen Anne style with a large turret set high on the shore, visitors are often overwhelmed by its beauty. Built in 1888, Conrad was only able to enjoy this summer cottage for two years as he passed away in 1890. His family would continue to enjoy and care for this property until 2005.

Catharina continued to bring the family up each summer. They would spend the entire summer at Black Point enjoying the fresh outdoor air, the lake and the home.

While it was a summer home, a place to relax and enjoy, Catharina kept the children busy. They had a tutor brought in who gave them lessons each day in subjects such as Latin, German and the sciences according to the book "The Black Point Legacy,"

published by the Black Point Historic Preserve, Inc. Everyone had chores to complete before being allowed to swim, boat, and play with siblings and friends.

Who was Conrad Seipp?

Who was Conrad Seipp and how was the Seipp family able to afford to build and maintain this summer home?

"Conrad Seipp was one of the largest beer barons in Chicago," Black Point Estate Site Coordinator Dave Desimone said. "He came to America as an immigrant from Germany and worked hard to build his dream. He became among the most successful brewers, fifth in the United States."

The Seipp brewery survived the Chicago fire, in part because they had earlier had a fire and rebuilt the brewery out of brick and in part because he was far enough south to avoid the fire. The brewery continued to grow

The Black Point Estate features balconies and a tower. Custom stained glass windows along the tower to let in some light as visitors climb to the top.

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until prohibition, when, like many breweries, it was shut down.

"This year, Lauren Mack, a great-, great-, great-, great-granddaughter of Conrad Seipp has started making beer under the Seipp label," Desimone said. "We have the Seipp's beer on site for sale in the gift shop only to be consumed on site."

After a visit to Kaye's Park, a popular upscale resort on Geneva Lake, Seipp knew he had found the place to build his summer home. He purchased a bluff on the south shore of the lake known as Warwick Park and there he built his summer home.

Construction on the lake

To build the house, all materials had to be shipped to Williams Bay, transported by boat to the building site and hoisted to the top of the bluff. Building the 17-room house was a massive job.

The first floor contained the public rooms. A dining room which could seat up to 40 at a time was usually full at meal times as the Seipp family enjoyed sharing their summer home with family and friends. Meals were served in formal style and visitors dressed for dinner. Interesting since the home was built without a kitchen. The kitchen was a separate building where the staff cooked the elaborate meals served here.

The other rooms on the main floor were a formal living or greeting room, a pool room, and the music room. Music was part of the daily evening activity and several of the Seipp children were accomplished musicians. After dinner the entire Sepp's family would retreat to the music room and participate in playing and singing.

The second and third floor contained the bedrooms – 13 of them. Some had two beds so more guests could be accommodated. There was one bathroom, located on the second floor that it was believed was used primarily by the older women. Chamber pots were used in these early days.

The home was truly meant to be a summer cottage and did not

have a full-house heating system. There were fireplaces throughout the home to help take out the chill on cool fall days. A coal stove was occasionally used to heat the second floor. The home was used through mid-October then shut down for the winter and the family returned to Chicago.

The most impressive part of the home, both from the outside and the inside, is the turret. It was impressive when viewed from across the lake and even more so up close. From the turret there was an unobstructed view of the entire lake from above the tree line. At the top of the turret the American Flag would fly from the time the family arrived until they left in October to return to Chicago.

Visiting the estate

The majority of visitors to Black Point arrive by boat. Partnering with the Gage Boat Lines, visitors board the Geneva in downtown Lake Geneva, and enjoy a 45 minute tour of Geneva Lake while they learn of the history of the lake and the summer cottages that were built by the wealthy Chicagoans who made Lake Geneva their summer destinations.

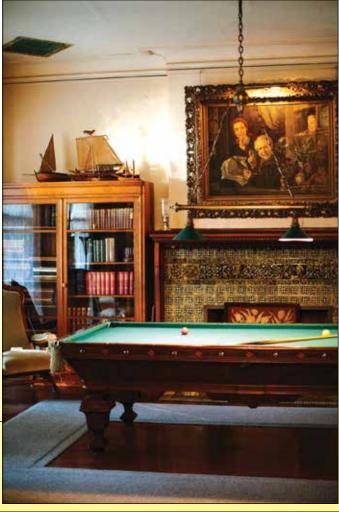
After arriving at Black Point just as the Seipp family did, they climb the more tha 100 stairs from the pier up to the house. Here they are greeted on the wraparound porch with its view of the lake and are met by a docent who shares the history of the Seipp family and of the beautiful home.

Visitors are then taken on a tour of the first two floors of the home. The first floor consists of the public rooms, the billiard room, the music room, the formal living room, and the formal dining room. On the second floor they will view some of the family and guest bedrooms.

Outside the beautifully landscaped gardens will be enjoyed. The lintel from the old brewery is on display on the garden. It has recently been reset to better enjoy, with new plantings surrounding it.

Upon completion of the tour, the boat will return you back to





top: One of the many bedrooms with its heavy Victorian furniture remains in the Black Point home today. **at right:** The billiard room on the first floor at the Black Point Estate was a favorite family and guest gathering place.

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the Lake Geneva docks. The entire tour takes about 3.5 hours and is recommended for those older than 12 years of age.

Order tickets at www.cruise lakegeneva. com. Cruises are held throughout the summer at 10:30 a.m. daily with an additional cruise on weekends at 12:30 p.m. Price is \$49 for adults.

Special programs

"Our goal is to continue to encourage people to come and enjoy Black Point, not just for one visit but to return and learn more about it. Each time one visits, they discover things they didn't notice before," Desimone said. "To encourage people to visit more we also offer a number of special events held on site. These include two separate beer programs."

Summer on the Veranda programs include two separate beer programs. The Spectrum of Beer studies the variety of beers from light to dark, or from Pilsners to Stout. Only 20 people are included in each program. It is held three times each summer. This year's dates are June 22, July 20 and Aug. 17. Tickets may be purchased on the Black Point website.

The other beer program is a boat program, Beer Barons of Lake Geneva, which must be booked through www.cruiselakegeneva.com.

There are three dates this year, June 17, July 15 and Aug. 12. They will share the history of the beer barons from the area

Summer on the Veranda will also include a visit by renowned author, Agatha Christie, as portrayed by local actress and historian, Chris Brookes. Tickets may be purchased on the Black Point website.

Are you interested in Paranormal Parlor Games? This event will be another event of the Summer on the Veranda events. Joe Diamond will share paranormal adventures and Victorian Spiritualism. Tickets can be purchased on the Black Point website.

Open to the public

While taking a boat tour around the lake, the beauty of all the beautiful summer homes is impressive. Unfortunately, they can only be viewed from the boat, except for Black Point.

For four generations, the descendants of Conrad and Catharina Seipp owned, maintained, and enjoyed the property and way of life.

In 2005 that all changed when William O. Petersen, great-grandson of Conrad Seipp turned over the title to the house, all of its furnishings, along with 8 acres of land and 620 feet of lake frontage to the state tourism secretary with the understanding that the home would be used as a museum. There is a limited conditional use permit which only allows 50 guests at a time.

The home provides a unique look into life at Black Point not just in the late 1800s but throughout the years the Seipp family and their descendants made this their summer home, the only summer cottage of the era that is open to the public to tour.







purple jacket with its fine detailing was very stylish and on display at Black Point. **above left:** Much of the highend clothing archived at Black Point Estate includes

above: This

the label of whom it was made for and who made it. The date it was made is also included on this label. at left: Dave DeSimone,

DeSimone,
Black Point
Estqte site
coordinator,
in front of the
fireplace in the
music room
holding an
original Seipps
beer stein.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ

Catch all the Action

"Our goal is to increase the number of people who are able to visit and learn more about Black Point," Desimone said. "The house was turned over to the Wisconsin State Historical Society in 2013 and we have increased the number of visitors from 3,000 a year to the current 10,000 yearly by becoming more involved in local community partnerships. We are sponsoring not only tours here at Black Point but partnering with local hosts for programs."

These partnerships include a movie series with the Lake Geneva Library which Desimone attends, tours of the local cemetery, the downtown Lake Geneva Historic District, known as Maple Park, and a winter book club which are held offsite.

This May, in conjunction with the Geneva Lake Museum, there will be a display of some of the clothing owned and worn by members of the Seipp family and on loan to the museum.

Fundraiser set

A special fundraiser is planned for Thursday, June 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St. Lake Geneva. "The Gilded Age Clothes and the Stories They Tell" will be hosted by the Geneva Lake Museum, Black Point Estates and Gardens and the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra.

Step back in time and enjoy a summer evening of elegant entertainment by the string quartet of Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra while enjoying wine, Sepp's beer, soft drinks and water. Light bites will be provided by Tarts and Truffles. Purchase tickets from Geneva Lake Museum 262-248-6060. Cost is \$65.

Caring for a property as large and varied as Black Point requires much maintenance and expense. According to Dave Desimone, they have a long-term plan in place to keep the building and grounds in excellent shape.

"We will never be done taking care of the property. Currently we are continuing to restore and improve the gardens including expanding these gardens. Fortunately, there is an endowment for the landscape. We continue to improve them with an eye to easier maintenance," DeSimone said. "And we appreciate the volunteers who help keep the gardens in shape."

He went on to share that both interior and exterior maintenance are ongoing concerns.

"We will need to restore rotted wood, probably next year. The goal will be to restore the home while keeping to the original look as much as possible," Desimone added. The third stage will be a longer-term

The third stage will be a longer-term project, the restoration of the interior. Because of the historic status of the house and its age, they will probably start with a comprehensive Historic Structure Report. This will determine what needs to be repaired or replaced. Then of course funding will have to be obtained. Cost will determine where they will begin and how much can be accomplished at one time.

Black Point is a unique look into history. Unlike many museums that focus on one time period, Black Point is a story of the life of the home. It does not focus on one period of time but moves through the time and changes of the home through the years of the family's tenure. It was a wonderful gift from the Seipp Family to not only donate the home to the Historical Society but to donate it intact giving future generations a look at life at Black Point through the years.

Visit Black Point this summer and enjoy all it has to offer. Visit www. cruiselakegeneva.com for tours and prices or visit www.wisconsinhistory.org for more information about the museum and its outreach programs.

top: Arriving at Black Point by boat, passengers disembark and begin the walk and climb of more than 100 steps up to the Black Point summer cottage. middle: The formal dining room at Black Point is set ready for dinner. Family dinners were served here nightly. at right: The main living room at Black Point as it looked when the Seipp family made their home here.

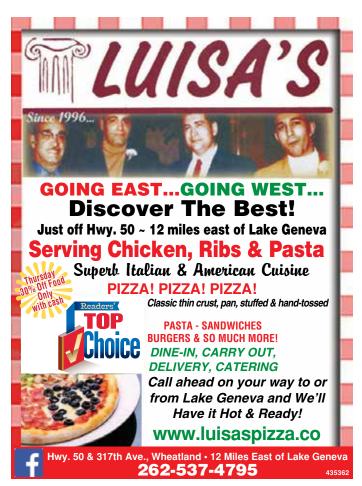
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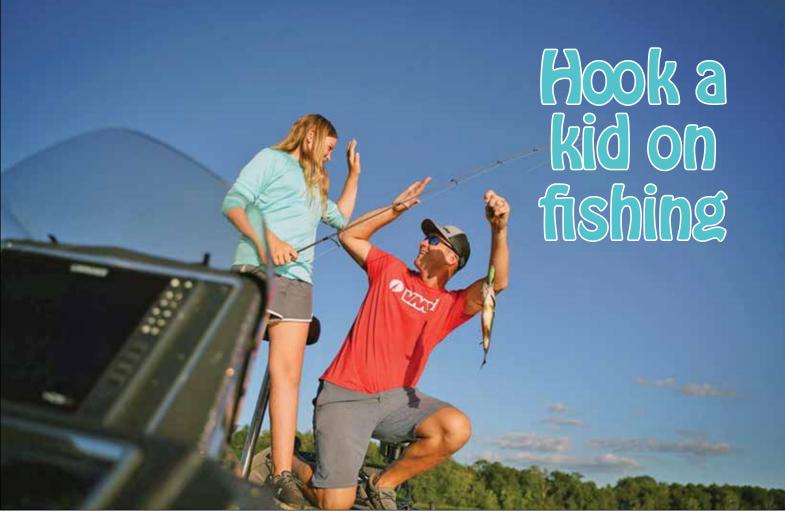
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15 quick tips to make their day

As the weather warms, the desire to go fishing is undeniable. And if you love fishing, there's only one thing more enjoyable than catching a big fish – watching a kid catch a fish.

This fishing season, the folks at Rapala fishing lures encourage adults to take a kid fishing. Why? Because kids represent the future of fishing. According to the American Sportfishing Association, kids who are introduced to fishing at an early age by a trusted adult are more likely to fish as an adult.

Here are 15 quick tips from the folks at Rapala on how you can introduce a kid to fishing this year:

GET THEM ON GOOD BITES

The number one thing you can do to hook a kid on fishing, says legendary angler Al Lindner, is to get lots of bites for your child. "Taking kids fishing between the ages of 8 and 12 years old is a critical time. Try to get them on good bites. Their attention span is short. You will quickly

know if fishing will be a part of their life in the future. They are either going to like it or not. But they have to get bites. I can't say how important that is. You gotta get 'em on a bite."

START THEM ON BLUEGILLS AND SUNNIES

The easiest bites tend to be panfish bluegills, sunfish and bream. As your kids watch you catch bass, walleye and other gamefish, they'll want new challenges. Keep a panfish pliers handy to remove hooks from small panfish.

A SMALL FISH CAN BE A MONSTER FISH!

To a child, a small sunny can be a trophy. Don't downplay a small fish. Every fish caught is a huge accomplishment.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Start your kid fishing with a single hook. They're much easier to remove from fish. It could be a hook and a bobber or a single hook soft bait, such as the Storm 360GT Searchbait. As your kids get more experience, let them graduate to a lure such as an Original Floating Rapala.

BRING THE SNACKS

Whatever your kids like for snacks, such as chips, cookies or fruit chewies, bring them! You're sure to work up an appetite catching all those fish. And don't forget the wipes for sticky, slimy little hands.

KEEP IT SHORT

With younger kids, especially, avoid overdoing it. Start out with short trips - a couple hours at most, and if the fish just don't seem to be cooperating, cut it short and go have an ice cream cone. Gradually increase your time out on the water and trying different types of fishing approaches, such as fishing with soft baits or trolling with crankbaits.

CREATE TRADITIONS

One of the best things about fishing with a kid is creating little traditions to which they can look forward in the future. For example, stopping for a donut on the way to the lake, or giving fish pins whenever your kid catches a new species.

BRING A FRIEND

If your child has a good friend, invite

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

Teach kids to fish to build a life-long love of the sport and water activities.

STOCK PHOTO Catch all the Action



Many people cannot think of a better place to spend an afternoon than out on the links. From prestigious and private country clubs to public courses, more than 15,000 golf courses dot the American landscape, while there are 2,298 golf courses in Canada.

THE EARLY DAYS OF GOLF

The modern game of golf is believed to have origins in Scotland, although ball-and-stick games are attributed to other areas as well. For example, in the 13th century, the Dutch played a game with a leather ball being hit to reach a target. According to The Golf Historian, others trace the roots of golf as far back as 100 BCE in Rome and a game called "pagancia."

Golf was played for some time in Scotland, but in 1457 King James II prohibited the game because he saw it as a distraction from archery practice and other training required for defense of the country. By 1500, golf bans were lifted and even royalty were playing and helping

to spread golf's popularity throughout Europe, according to the history resource Historic UK. In fact, Mary, Queen of Scots was believed to have played the game and brought it to France when she studied there, while King Charles I brought the game to England.

Golf officially became a sport in 1744 when the first club was formed by the

Gentlemen Golfers of Leith. Later, the St. Andrews Society of Golfers was formed to compete in its own annual competition, using Leith's rules. St. Andrews in Scotland is often recognized as the historic hometown of golf.

GOLF EQUIPMENT

The earliest golf clubs were made mostly from apple, beach, holly, and pear wood. The balls were made of wood or hard leather. Other historic documents reference balls stuffed with feathers.

NORTH AMERICAN GOLF

While many other parts of the world took to golf very early, the United States was late to the game, with only a smattering of people playing during the 18th century. The oldest permanent golf club

in North America was not an American creation; the first club was established in Montreal in 1873. It was not until 1894 that the United States Golf Association was formed, according to the Keiser University College of Golf.

PROFESSIONAL GOLF RECOGNITION

The Professional Golfers' Association was established in 1916 after a meeting of golf professionals and several leading amateur golfers at Taplow Club in New York City. Its purpose was to raise the status of people earning their living from playing the game, according to the PGA.

Today, there are more than 8,000 members in 80 countries. PGA professionals learn the latest skills and participate in annual PGA Tour competitions testing their prowess. The top five winningest PGA Tour players are:

- Sam Snead: 82 wins;
- Tiger Woods: 82 wins;
- Jack Nicklaus: 73 wins;
- · Ben Hogan: 64 wins; and
- Arnold Palmer: 62 wins.

(METRO CREATIVE)

Golf is played all over the world. It may have ancient roots, but golf remains popular among people of all ages.

STOCK PHOTO Catch all the Action



6 ways to improve your **PUTTING SKILLS**

Golf requires mastery of a wide array of skills. Many novice players focus on improving skills related to their swings. Yet they shouldn't overlook the importance of improving their short games as well.

In golf, short game refers to the golf shots golfers must make when they're near or on the green. According to Golf Distillery, a golf play information and tips site, shots like bunker shots, chips and putts are part of the short game. Improving these skills can go a long way toward bettering one's game.

LEARN 'GREEN-READING' TECHNIQUES

According to a Golf Magazine-sponsored study through Pinehurst Golf Academy, 65% of golfers under-read the break on a typical putt. Incorrect reads can add to many lost strokes. Reading the green involves determining the correct slope and distance. Golfers who take depth-perception tests and continually practice their skills at reading both the distance and the slope can improve their putts.

CHANGE PERSPECTIVE

Different putts require different

perspectives in order to assess both distance and slope, according to Todd Sones Impact Golf Schools. If the putt is downhill, Sones suggests reading it from behind the hole. If the putt is uphill, read it from behind the ball.

PRACTICE CONSISTENT PUTTER TRAVEL DISTANCE

While the total length of a putt stroke depends on the length of the putt, many golf instructors recommend consistency with the distance the putter head travels. Keep the same distance on the back stroke as on the foward stroke. This will help create a nice, even roll. Most beginners tend to short their back strokes and increase their forward strokes, resulting in less ball control.

FOCUS ON AN IMAGINARY CHANNEL

When putting, imagine a three- or four-inch channel from the ball to the hole. Rather than staring at the ball, golfers can track their eyes down that imaginary line, suggests the experts at Golf Digest. Keeping a simpler

focus rather than overthinking things can improve putting.

KEEP A STEADY HEAD

Instead of following the ball with one's eyes, a golfer should hold the focus on the start of the putt to foster a more steady head.

CHANGE BALL PLACEMENT

Try moving to position the ball just forward of the center of the stance. This helps the putter make contact at the right moment to achieve the slight lift needed for a successful putt.

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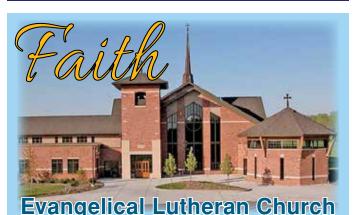
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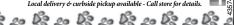
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FISHING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

them along on the fun, too. That kid may turn into a lifetime fishing buddy for your kid.

TAKE PICTURES

Don't limit yourself to just fish photos! Take photos of the entire experience - stopping for donuts on the way to the water, eating snacks, collecting rocks or seashells, feeding the ducks. Turn your photos into a photo book or create a slide show with music that the kids can watch later. When fish are caught make sure the most important people in your kid's life see their fish photos.

WATCH THE WEATHER

Sometimes the weather doesn't always cooperate. You may think the fishing is best on an overcast, windy day, but that may not be the case for kids. Instead, watch the weather and choose a warm, clear day and get out early when the fish are most likely to bite.

BRING A LIFE JACKET

It only takes a second and you may find a kid in the water. When on a boat, kids should always wear a life jacket that fits properly (in many states, it's the law). Use caution when fishing from docks, piers and shorelines, too.

AVOID SUNBURN

Make sure your kid is wearing a comfortable fishing cap and together, apply your sunscreen to ears, noses and other exposed skin.

HANDLE FISH GENTLY

Fish are slimy, prickly and wiggly. With young kids, adults should handle fish at first and let kids gently "pet" them before they're released. As they become more experienced, show kids how to carefully land, hold and release their catches.

FISH WITH TOPWATER

Watching a fish explode on the surface for a lure gives young anglers an exciting visual that will keep them coming back for more. An X-Rap Pop or Skitter Pop are amazing baits to throw from shore or the dock for heart-stopping topwater action.

KEEP A FEW

If your kids want to try eating fish, keep a few fish and cook them up. Don't make an entire meal out of it though, as eating fish is an acquired taste. Use a trusty batter recipe and serve with French fries.

(BPT)



Summer Savings Event

verle takes pride in building your mattress in our **LOCAL** MATTRESS FACTORY,

located right in our store. in

This CUTS **OUT THE MIDDLEMAN** to keep prices affordable for you.

CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMAN

v1 FIRM 1-Sided No Flip

\$599

FULL SET KING SET

v3 PLUSH 1-Sided No Flip

\$899 FULL SET

\$1399 KING SET



v5 FIRM 1-Sided No Flip

\$1049 \$1349 FULL SET

\$1999 KING SET

v7 PILLOWTOP

1-Sided No Flip

\$1399 TWIN SET \$1949 FULL SET

\$2699 KING SET

Thank You

for continuously voting us

MATTRESS STORE



SAVE UP TO

v5 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO

v9 Set Purchase

v7 Set Purchase

SAVE UP TO

On set purchase with factory select covers. Not applicable on previous purchases. One coupon per set purchase. See store for details.

ADJUSTABLE BED ON SALE NOW!



Great for watching TV or reading in bed

Aids in circulation

Reduces snoring & acid reflux

Alleviates lower back, knee & leg pain

Adjustable Bed Bases** Twin XL Starting at

\$39

Every Verlo mattress is adjustable and comes with a Lifetime Comfort Guarantee. If your body changes or you change your mind, we will adjust it so you can love your mattress again.

> Take the risk out of mattress shopping with the assurance of adjustable comfort for the lifetime of your mattress.

LAKE GENEVA

2462 Hwy 120 262.249.0420 CRYSTAL LAKE

McHENRY

verlo.com 1-866-99-VERLO