

The Breeze

Serving the Delavan Lakes area

- Living
on a Lake

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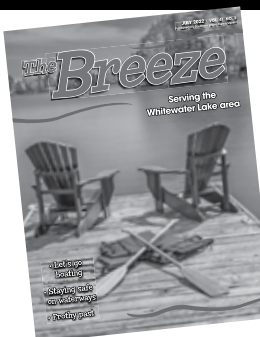
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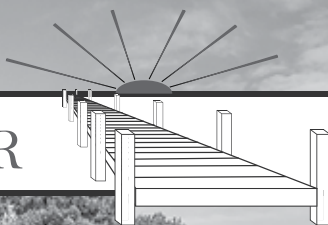
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Why many people love living on a lake



There's nothing some people love more than a lake house. In fact, many think that everyone should be living on lake front property.

Not only is can it provide endless recreational opportunities, property value, and plenty of entertainment, but countless other positives.

Here are some of the top reasons why everyone should consider having a lake home, according to a blog posted by staff from the Weeders Digest – a company specializing in lakes and ponds.

Relaxation

There's something so peaceful about spending your free time sitting out on the dock.

In fact, living near the water has even been proven to make people healthier.

Entertaining

When you live lakeside, everyone wants to spend time at your house.

And most people love having a great place for family and friends to party.

Fishing

Let's just say your supply of fresh fish won't run short, and you don't even have to go to the store.

Additionally, being able to fish – whether from the shoreline, pier or your boat – opens up many possibilities to spend time with some of the younger – or older – people in your life.

Children

There's nothing kids love more than a lake in their backyard as it offers much to explore and an extra level of fun.

They can spend summer days swimming and playing, with the only difficult part often being for the parents in getting them out of the water.

Property value

Resale value when you live on a lake remains a huge positive if and when you decide to move.

Purchasing a lake home – and during the years spent enjoying it – will likely be well worth the investment for the amount of time your family and friends will spend on or next to the water.

Pets

Man's best friends usually love the water just as much as their people do.

Your dogs will be forever grateful when you give them a lake to play in. Watching them enjoy themselves will also bring an added level of enjoyment to the family.

Community

The communities that form around lakes are also extremely unique and one of the positives those who live on lakes enjoy.

It's very likely that you and your neighbors will have a lot of shared interests, many that will no doubt revolve around the body of water in your backyards.

Sunrises

This is a given because the only thing that beats a stunning sunrise view from your own private beach, pier or yard...

Sunsets

... is a sunset from that same spot. Neither of them ever get old as Mother Nature can sure put on a show of spectacular colors reflected on the water.

Lifelong friends

You'll very likely make amazing friends living on a lake – whether full-time neighbors or weekend visitors of a lake cottage.

From bonding over morning coffee, an evening cocktail or even a cookout to time spent on the water taking in some fun recreation – lake living provides some of the best bonding time.

Privacy

You'll have more privacy at a lake home than some homes offer even with fences on all four sides.

And for those lake homes that have neighbors on either side, the opening to the water will still offer some much-needed breathing room.

Wildlife

The animals scurrying or flying around your yard when you live on a lake are sure to be fascinating.

Spending time observing the wildlife

activity will be better than what can generally be found in the regular suburbs or even at a public beach because of the additional privacy offered.

The bottom line is living on a lake isn't for everyone but for those who do, there are many positives.

Not only can living on a lake provide endless recreational opportunities, property value, and plenty of entertainment, it can provide spectacular views of sunrises and sunsets.

METRO CREATIVE PHOTO *The Breeze*

The Breeze

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REVIEW OF WATER SKIER SAFETY CODES



STOCK PHOTO The Breeze

Water skiing is a popular sport on area lakes. When participating in any water sport, safety is key. Know the following rules of the water before putting on the skies.

Rule 1 – Always wear flotation. A properly fitted personal flotation device is designed to fit snugly, so that it won't slip up on the body during a fall. The recommended type is a jacket or vest that covers the chest, abdomen and back.

Rule 2 – Always be sure your equipment is in good condition. Your personal safety and enjoyment depend on the equipment you use. Check your equipment regularly. Be sure that your skis do not have sharp or protruding surfaces that could cut or scrape the skier. Check towropes for frayed areas or broken bridles and handles. Repair or replace damaged or unsafe articles.

Rule 3 – Don't give the starting signal

until ready. Make sure you are ready; the slack has been taken out of the rope and you are clear of any dangerous obstacles around you. Keep your ski tips up.

Rule 4 – Do not ski near docks, pilings, other boats or swimmers. Always look ahead and be sure you are aware of your surroundings and where you are going at all times. Many water ski injuries result from collisions with docks or other solid objects.

Rule 5 – Never put any part of your body through the handle or wrap the line around yourself in any way.

Rule 6 – Never ski in shallow water or an area where there may be obstructions above or just beneath the surface.

Rule 7 – When a fall is inevitable, try to fall backward or to either side. A forward fall increases the chances of contact with

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Ways to spend more time on the water

Whether it's the wind in your hair, the whine of a reel or the thrill of watersports, every summer the water invites us to jump in and have some fun.

Many people might be surprised to learn that boating is an accessible and active hobby – including for those who live on a lake and don't have their own boat, making it easy to plan to spend more on the water.

More than 60 percent of Americans say outdoor recreation, such as boating is important for their overall well-being, according to Discover Boating. In fact, more than 83 million Americans go boating each year.

"Summer is the best time to turn off those smartphones and turn up the quality time spent with loved ones and there's no better place to bond than on a boat," Carl Blackwell, a boater from Chicago and president of Discover Boating said.

"Boating offers something for everyone – from fishing to wakeboarding to cruising and more. Plus, today's boats are more versatile than ever, making boating more fun and accessible for every interest, lifestyle and budget," he added.

Whether planning an on-the-water getaway, looking to rent, or considering ownership, getting on a boat has never been more fun or easier to do.

The crew at Discover Boating offers several simple ways to disconnect from land and get their feet wet this warm weather season.

On-water thrills

For action-packed excitement, try waterskiing, wakeboarding or tubing. Watersports are fun for the whole family and a great workout, plus they're an

easy way to get the kids to turn off the videogames and play outside.

A little online research makes it easy to find on-water rentals, lessons and demonstrations in nearly any area. Plus, there are also watersports clubs and organizations all over offering affordable programs for people of all ages and skill levels.

Gone fishin'

While landing a nice catch is the best thing to many people who enjoy fishing, there's more to love about it.

From enjoying time in nature to spending time with family and friends, it's easy to understand why fishing is a favorite hobby for many – it offers a lot of fun and can be accomplished at a minimum cost.

Consider renting a fishing boat at a nearby lake or, when traveling for a vacation, set up a deep-sea or large lake fishing charter and try to land some truly "big" ones.

Cruise control

If relaxing and socializing rank at the top of your list for summer fun, the cruising lifestyle may be just right.

A variety of rental boats are widely available throughout the area, generally offering choices of hourly, half-day, daily or even weekend rates. Or you can rent a boat and captain.

Fractional ownership is also an emerging trend – similar to a lodging timeshare, but for boats, it offers a way to access new boats and share costs among friends or other boaters.

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For action-packed excitement, try water skiing, wakeboarding or tubing. Watersports are fun for the whole family and a great workout, plus they're an easy way to get kids to set aside their phones and video games and enjoy some time outside.

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Timely tips for those looking to buy a boat

Considerations on whether to purchase a new or used watercraft

Buy new or buy used? That's a tough call for boat buyers, especially those about to do so for the first time.

There's no right or wrong answer. It all depends on what the buyer is seeking including tastes, budget, intended use and mechanical aptitude.

What makes your smile wider? A mint condition new prize or a bargain cleverly bought and burnished?

Some say the sweet spot is a used boat that is a couple of years old, bought from a trusted dealer you trust, but that opinion will likely vary between buyers.

Discover Boating offers the following pointers from both sides of the issue.

Why buy new?

Who doesn't like things that are shiny and new?

There's no need to wonder how the boat's been used or misused, or if it's been adequately winterized and commissioned.

And there is no history to uncover, because the first owners will write this boat's on-water biography.

Future boat owners can go for exactly what they want and not have to settle for what's on the pre-owned market.

One of the most fun aspects of a new boat for many will be getting the latest, greatest technology – the kind of things other people will be impressed by with some even being envious.

If something does go awry, there is a manufacturer's warranty to take care of the issue and bring peace of mind. That warranty is served by the selling dealer, which is another good reason to buy nearby.

Once purchased, the boat owner can rig it the way they want with the latest gear selected precisely for that type and style of watercraft. Unless the purchase is a boat-and-motor combo with the lowest-offered powerplant, it should be a satisfying match (though a combo is more than satisfying for many people.)

Finally, there is no need to get an answer to what might be the most troubling question: Why is this used boat for sale?

Consider pre-owned

Savings is likely the main reason many people shop for a used boat.

The previous owner has covered the percent of depreciation that happens when a new boat is towed off the dealer's lot.

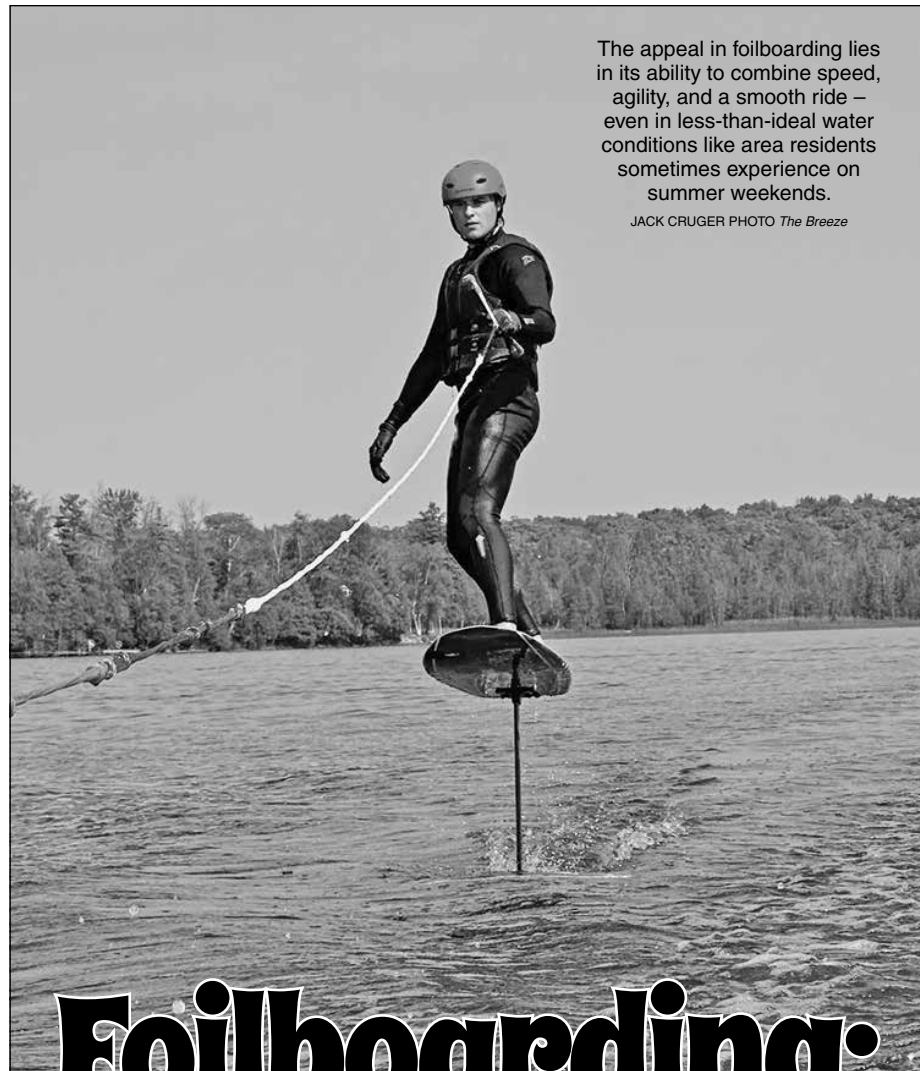
With a used boat, shoppers will get more boat for fewer dollars, lower cost per year of ownership, and there will be less on the line if they decide a different style or size boat would better serve them down the road.

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Those interested in buying a boat need to determine whether going the route of new or used makes the most sense. From the budget and intended use to something as simple as preferring new and shiny or tried and true, there are many things to consider.

PEXELS.COM PHOTO The Breeze



The appeal in foilboarding lies in its ability to combine speed, agility, and a smooth ride – even in less-than-ideal water conditions like area residents sometimes experience on summer weekends.

JACK CRUGER PHOTO The Breeze

Foilboarding:

The fast-rising watersport making waves

In recent years, a sleek and futuristic water sport has been gaining momentum on area lakes – foilboarding. Once a niche pursuit for adrenaline seekers, the sport is rapidly evolving into a mainstream phenomenon, drawing in thrill-seekers and casual hobbyists alike.

Foilboarding, often referred to as hydrofoiling or simply foiling, involves riding a board equipped with a hydrofoil that extends below the surface of the water. This unique design allows riders to glide effortlessly above the water once they reach sufficient speed, offering a near-magical sensation of flying over the waves.

The appeal lies in its ability to combine speed, agility, and a smooth ride – even in less-than-ideal water conditions like area residents experience on summer weekends.

Experts in the water sports industry attribute the surge in popularity to advancements in technology and the sheer excitement the sport offers.

Originally powered by kites (kite foiling), foilboards now come in various

styles, including e-foils, which are electric-powered and allow riders to soar across the water without needing wind or waves. These innovations have made foilboarding more accessible to a broader audience, from seasoned surfers to beginners.

“There's nothing quite like it,” says Sarah Trent, a professional foilboarder who has seen the sport grow exponentially in the past few years. “Once you're up on the foil, it feels like you're floating, and the connection with the water is unlike any other water sport.”

Water sports equipment retailers are seeing the shift firsthand. Many shops report a significant rise in demand for foilboards and accessories, especially e-foils.

“We have seen an uptick in foilboard sales. It's the latest craze that has come out,” Jayson Rishling, owner of the BS The Board Shop in Lake Geneva, said late last summer.

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TIME ON THE WATER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**Sail away**

Sailboats harness the breeze to power the boat across the water. Sailing lessons, charters and clubs are offered around the country for sailors of all (or no) skill levels.

Weave a charter, rental or sailing clinic into your summer; it's a fun way to get started – or at least give it a try and spend time with family and friends on the lake.

A little research can go a long way for

on-water options in your area this summer. Start by visiting DiscoverBoating.com, which can serve as a beginner's guide to all things related to boating.

Topics covered include a boat selector and cost comparison tool as well as a step-by-step guide. There's something for anyone looking to take the first step from land or a dock to the boat deck.

(BPT)

FOILBOARDING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The sport's growing popularity is also evident in the number of competitions and events being organized globally. From the Caribbean to the Mediterranean, foilboarding events are drawing large crowds, with riders competing in long-distance races, freestyle events, and even group rides.

Enthusiasts are also forming communities on social media, sharing tips,

videos, and organizing meet-ups, which further accelerates its growth.

While foilboarding may still seem futuristic to some, many believe it's only the beginning of a new era in water sports. Whether you're a seasoned rider or a curious beginner, there's never been a better time to experience the thrill of flying over water.

BUY A BOAT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

While some enjoy the shiny and new in their purchases, for many there's peace of mind in knowing they're not going to put the first scratch or ding in the boat.

Any initial bugs in the boat or motor have likely surfaced and been dealt with, bringing another level of peace of mind for owners.

For reassurance, and before signing, potential buyers are encouraged to get a marine survey (see National Association of Marine Surveyors or Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors). Marine surveyors see what most people can't, and they will look where most won't.

One the survey is done, the options are fairly simple: smile and buy (including whittling down the price in some instances), draft a to-do list, or walk away from this one and continue searching.

A used boat will have time-tested

technologies. If a manufacturer brought out a bad boat or balky motor, online resources and other sources can warn buyers before they decide to buy.

The options on style of sale are many, including:

- From the trade-in or used stock of a dealer who has to cover overhead but has a reputation to uphold and a service bay;
- From a broker who has reduced overhead costs;
- From a private seller, who may be most motivated.

The bottom line is whether to buy new or used is a decision each potential buyer needs to make with both ways offering a variety of positives, depending on the wants and needs as well as the budget.

For more information about boats including tips on purchasing one, visit www.discoverboating.com.

SAFETY CODES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**Water ski hand signals****1. Speed up**

The "thumbs-up" gesture indicates that the skier would like the speed increased.

2. Slow down

The "thumbs-down" gesture indicates that the skier would like the speed decreased.

3. OK

If the set speed or boat the path is good, the skier may use the OK signal.

4. Turn

When either the skier or the driver wants the boat turned, a circle motion with the arm over the head with one finger in the air is used. This is usually followed by pointing in the direction of the turn.

5. Back to the dock

A pat on the head indicates that the skier would like to return to the dock.

6. Cut motor/stop

A slashing motion with the hand across the neck indicates the boat is to stop immediately. This signal can be used by the skier, driver or observer.

7. I'm OK (after a fall)

This important signal indicates that a skier is OK after a fall. It consists of both hands clasped over the head. It should be used every time the skier falls.

the ski.

Rule 8 – Know and use the skier hand signals. It is particularly important to use the skier's "I'm OK" signal after a fall if you are all right.

Rule 9 – If you fall in an area where there is other boat traffic, lift one ski half way out of the water. This will signal to other boats that there is a skier in the water.

Rule 10 – Never ski to the point of excessive fatigue.

Rule 11 – Always ski during daylight, from sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Rule 12 – Never ski directly in front of another boat.

Rule 13 – Always use equal length ropes when skiing double.

Rule 14 – Always ensure that the motor is "off" when a skier is entering and exiting the boat.

Rule 15 – Always have an observer in the towboat.

For more information about watersports, visit usawaterskiandwakesports.org.



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DNR launches Fishing Finder tool

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recently launched a new Wisconsin Fishing Finder, a comprehensive online fishing resource for anglers.

State officials said there are a lot of great places to fish in Wisconsin, including over 15,000 inland lakes, 42,000 miles of perennial streams and rivers, 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and 260 miles of the Mississippi River.

“With so many places to choose from, finding the place you want to fish is a little like finding a needle in a haystack,” DNR officials said.

The Wisconsin Fishing Finder is here to help anglers find the fishing spot they are looking for.

It works using any internet browser to give anglers access to various fishing information, including the following:

- Fishing regulations (including bag and

length limits) for lakes and trout streams

- Boat launch locations and access points
- Shore fishing locations
- Public lands and easements
- Healthy guidelines for eating fish
- Lake habitat information
- Habitat improvement projects
- Invasive species
- Fish stocking information
- DNR service center locations and

where you can buy a fishing license

“We’ve created this tool to help anglers find new places to fish or get insights into their current favorite fishing spots,” said Justine Hasz, DNR Fisheries Management Bureau director.

“This is an easy-to-use resource that we hope will become a staple for all anglers looking to discover more about Wisconsin’s fishing opportunities,” Hasz added.

For more information, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov.



Anglers have another resource to find an ideal fishing spot using a tool recently launched by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

TRAVEL WISCONSIN PHOTO *The Breeze*

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