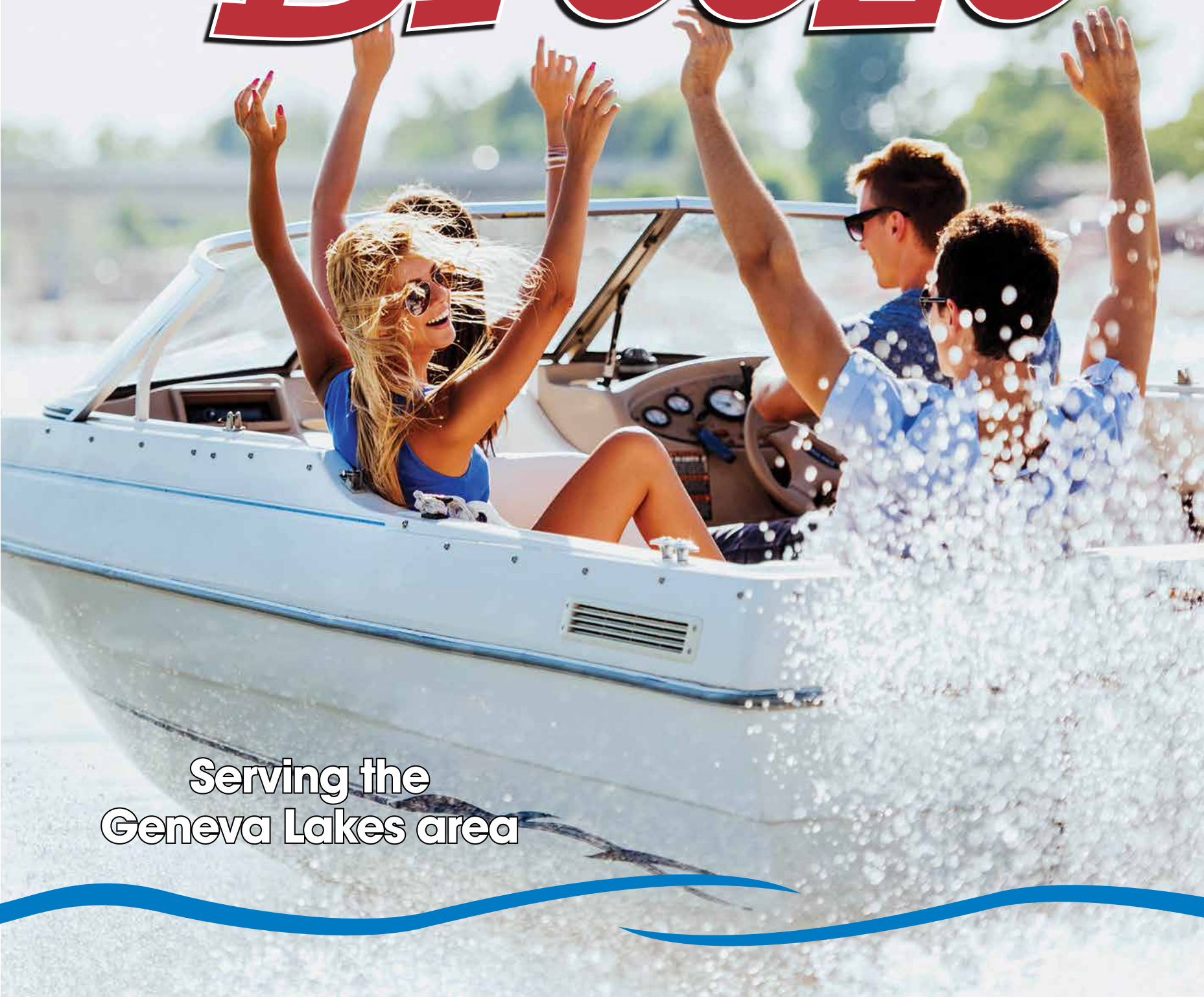


**JUNE 2025 • VOL. 12 NO. 1**  
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# *The Breeze*



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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](http://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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# A passion for Geneva Lake fishing

*Whether for business or pleasure, guide service offers quality outings*

By Sandra Landen-Machaj  
CORRESPONDENT

Each year as the weather turns warmer, many people flock to the Lake Geneva area and surrounding communities. While the reasons vary, a common denominator is to spend time outdoors, from wandering the streets exploring the countless stores and restaurants to spending a day at the beach or taking a hike on the lake path.

Geneva Lake is a major attraction for a variety of watersports including for those who enjoy fishing, which has been popular in this area from days long ago when people lived along the shores and fished so they could feed their families.

Today, many people fish for the sport of it, taking in the beauty of their surroundings while waiting to catch their first fish of the season, or perhaps their first fish ever.

Geneva Lake is a great fishing lake because of its clear, clean water and it serves as home to many species of fish. It's the second deepest natural lake in Wisconsin, according to Lake Geneva Fishing Guide Service members – and clear, deep water offers the ideal habitat for the large variety of fish found here.

Fish regularly caught on the lake include walleye, small mouth and large mouth bass, northern pike, lake trout, brown and rainbow trout, white bass, perch, crappie, bluegill and cisco.

And the crew of local fishing guide service are here to help ensure a fun day out on the water.

"For a successful day of fishing, you need the water to be warm. This usually occurs about mid-May after we have had some 80-degree days and some warm



rain," said Tom Billing, owner of Lake Geneva Fishing Guide Service.

Billing, who has been a professional fishing guide for many years, said once the water is warm the fish are more active and more willing to bite at the bait.

He grew up on the shores of Geneva Lake and began fishing its waters at the age of 7. Now, 60 years later and despite

some health challenges in recent years, he continues to enjoy the sport of fishing just as much as he did when he was younger.

Not only does he have a deep passion for fishing, but Billing is also very knowledgeable about the history of the area and enjoys sharing it with friends and visitors while spending time out on the lake.



**from left:** The guide service uses Lund fishing boats, such as what is shown here, for smaller groups. When taking out larger groups, they utilize a roomier pontoon boat; Catching a large fish always brings a smile to the face of the angler.

COURTESY LG FISHING GUIDE SERVICE *The Breeze*

## How it began

In 1979, Billing founded Lake Geneva Fishing Guide Service and engaged several of his fellow fisherman to work with him. Today those who work with him are full time professional guides with knowledge of

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

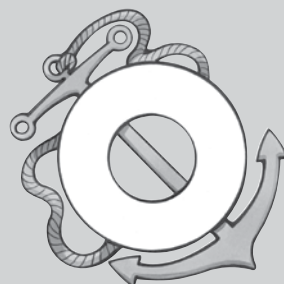
## The Breeze

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# Be prepared for the warm weather

Summer can be hot, sticky and downright uncomfortable. It can also be dangerous if you are not prepared.

Cope with the heat this summer and stay healthy and safe with these helpful tips.

## Maintain your air conditioner

The last thing you need is a broken air conditioner on a hot day. Regular maintenance of your unit can help ensure it will work all summer long.

The easiest, and perhaps most important, maintenance task you can perform yourself is to clean or change the filter on a regular basis, and sometimes more so when the unit is in high use, such as during hot weather.

For more complicated tasks, it might be best to hire a professional technician. Likewise, you'll want to be sure your car's air conditioner is in good working order, at home and in your vehicle.

## Stay informed with accurate weather

Accurate weather information is one of the best ways to make informed decisions and be prepared for daily outdoor activities, family vacations and travel plans.

Consider a source recognized for its superior accuracy – the AccuWeather app can be a good go-to resource to help keep you safe. It features AccuWeather MinuteCast, an exclusive minute-by-minute precipitation forecast for the next two hours specific to your exact GPS location. Plus, the app's AccuWeather RealFeel feature lets you know how it actually feels outside so you can properly plan for outdoor summer activities and the day ahead – from what to pack to what to wear.

If you're constantly on the go, don't worry, because the app delivers severe weather push alert notifications that can help keep you safe and better prepared for

anything that comes your way. The app is available on all Android mobile devices, as well as on iOS, for free.

## Know what to wear

During the summer, lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing can make all the difference to your comfort.

In addition to light colors, keep in mind the less fabric actually touching your body, the cooler you will be.

## Schedule outdoor activities carefully

During periods of intense heat, stay indoors and, if possible, remain in an air-conditioned location.

If your home does not have air conditioning, consider going to a shopping mall or public library for a few hours – spending time in air conditioning will help your body stay cooler once you go back out

into the elements.

For the most part, you can still spend time outdoors but limit it to morning and evening hours when it's cooler.

## Stay hydrated

Summer fun often means being outdoors but listen to your body and take breaks to rest, rehydrate and cool off.

Bring water or a hydrating drink with you especially when exercising, spending time in or on the lake, or just making your way around town running errands.

Also, make sure to avoid alcohol and caffeine, as they can quickly dehydrate you.

With up-to-the-minute knowledge at your fingertips and the right preparation, you will be ready to cope with heat and other weather conditions the summer season brings.

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# Review of water skier safety codes

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 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, visit the website, [usawaterskiandwakesports.org](http://usawaterskiandwakesports.org).



STOCK PHOTO The Breeze

## 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.

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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 guests

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.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



METRO CREATIVE PHOTO The Breeze

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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 preowned**

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.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



# 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 water skiing, during the 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

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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 videogames and enjoy some time outside.

RON LACH/PEXELS.COM *The Breeze*

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**LIVING ON A LAKE** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**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.

**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.

**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.

**FOILBOARDING** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

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,



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 *The Breeze*

**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 – including birds, squirrels and more – 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.

videos, and organizing meetups, 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.

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May 3 to March 1, 2026

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Sept. 2-30 (hook-and-line)

For more information, visit [drn.wi.gov](http://drn.wi.gov).

**BUY A BOAT** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

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](http://www.discoverboating.com).

**TIME ON THE WATER** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

weather season.

**On-water thrills**

For action-packed excitement, try waterskiing, wakeboarding or tubing, which are fun for the whole family and a great workout.

**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 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.

**Where to begin**

A little research can go a long way for on-water options in your area this summer. Start by visiting [DiscoverBoating.com](http://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. There's something for anyone looking to take the first step from land or a dock to the boat deck.



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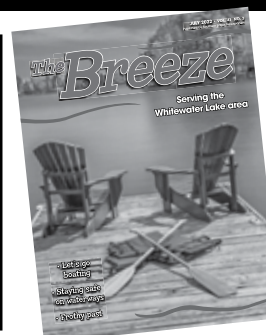
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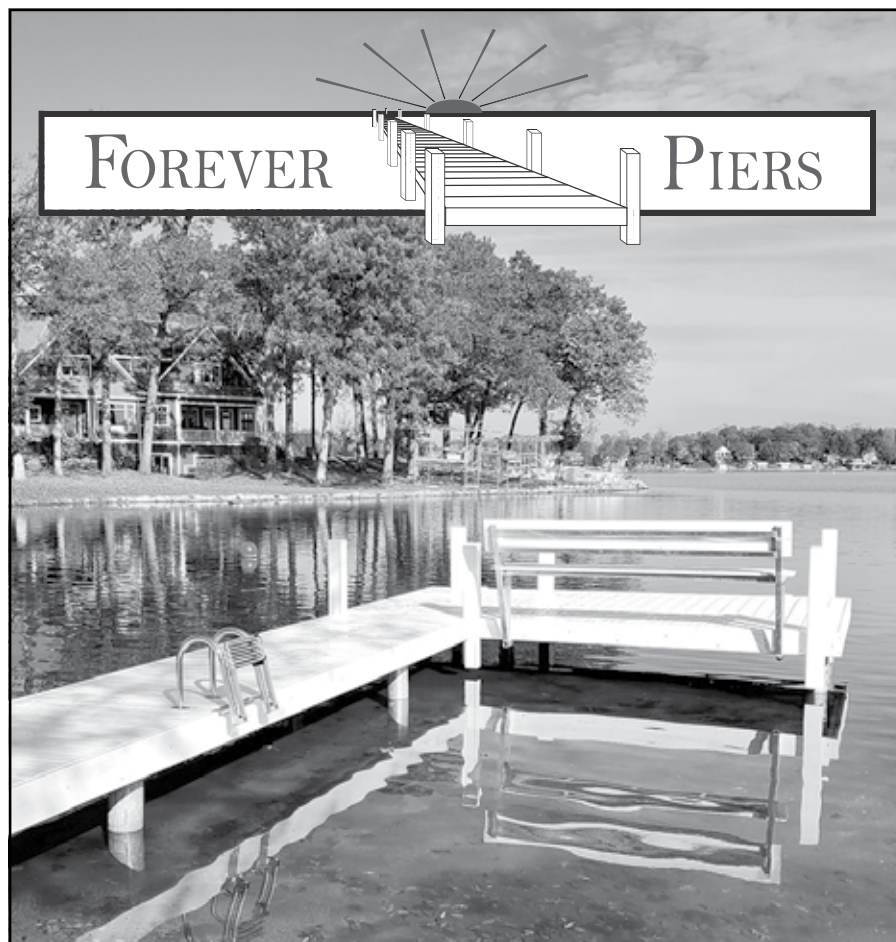
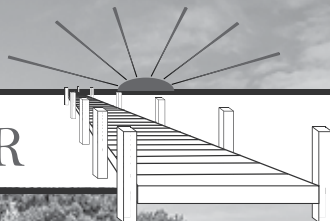
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# FISHING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

where to fish on Geneva Lake.

The goal is to help both the beginner and well-seasoned fishing enthusiast have a great time and the other guides, like Billing, enjoy sharing their knowledge of Geneva Lake with their clients.

One thing that can be bet on is that the fishing trip will not be boring. If the fish aren't biting in one spot the guides will move to another location, and with the lake being so large, there are countless areas to explore.

While traveling across the sparkling water on the fishing boat, history lessons are often given by pointing out some of the mansions along the shore, many of which were considered summer cottages when they were built.

Family names like Wrigley, Harris (of Harris Bank) and Maytag are among some of the popular Chicago families who spent their summers on the shores of Geneva Lake.

"As a child I knew many these families because my father worked for the Harris family, while my grandfather was their dog trainer, and my mother, who was a nurse, worked for the Wrigley family," Billing said.

## Many returning clients

Over the years, Lake Geneva Fishing Guide Service has grown to become a popular fishing guide service on Geneva Lake. Many of the resorts on the lake refer those seeking a fishing guide to Billing's company. The guide service is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and as such receive referrals.



The size and depth of Geneva Lake offers endless opportunities for the guides to find where the fish are biting.

COURTESY LG FISHING GUIDE SERVICE *The Breeze*



**from left:** It isn't often a fish caught in this area is taller than the boy who landed it but it is possible; Tom Billing, owner of Lake Geneva Fishing Guide Service, and this family are all smiles while spending time out on the water on a fishing excursion.

COURTESY LG FISHING GUIDE SERVICE *The Breeze*

they live in another state) as it will be less expensive in the long run than purchasing a short-term license more than once.

"But if you are only planning to fish once over the summer, the day pass is all that is needed, especially if it's your first time fishing. If it is your first experience, you aren't sure if you will develop a love for the sport," he said.

The crew at Lake Geneva Fishing Guide Service are members of the Lund and Mercury Pro Team, which ensures new top of the line Lund boats every season. Lund is the top name in fishing boats which means a comfortable ride for the time spent on the water.

"Lund fishing boats often cost up to \$100,000 for their top line boats," said Billing. "Much like a top of the line and high-powered pontoon boat, which can also fit into that price category."

With summer approaching, it's recommended to book a fishing outing sooner rather than later. Early in the season, when not as many visitors have descended on the Lake Geneva area, it is sometimes possible to make a reservation on shorter notice but as the season progresses – especially for weekends – advanced reservations are needed.

For families or small groups of up to four people, fishing from one of the Lund boats is a perfect fit. For larger groups like the corporate outings or bachelor parties, the pontoon boat is more suitable.

Keith Hahn, a veteran fishing guide with over 25 years of experience on Geneva Lake also has a wealth of knowledge about the history of the area. Hahn is the group's

pontoon fishing charter captain and enjoys working with bigger groups including families and those on a corporate outing.

The Lund boat packages usually are scheduled for 4 1/2 hours, and the cost is determined by number of guests included. All fishing equipment – poles lines, nets and a variety of bait, both live and plastic – are included. For special baits such as suckers, chubs and minnows, there is an extra charge.

The pontoon boat fishing outings can be customized to include snacks and beverages and other specialties.

The fishing guide will work with each person to the extent that they need guidance, from baiting the hook to getting the line in the water and helping land the fish.

There is nothing as satisfying as helping a youngster land his or her first fish, according to Billing.

The catch-and-release method of fishing is recommended. Generally, someone from the group will take a photo of the fish caught before returning it to the water so there is a memento of the catch. If someone lands a large trophy fish that they want to have mounted, or some small pan fish they wish to cook, they will be accommodated.

Wisconsin fishing regulations have to be followed regarding the size and number of fish allowed (when keeping them) and it varies for different species of fish.

The guide service leaves from the Town of Linn boat launch off of Hillside Avenue.

For more information about Lake Geneva Fishing Guide Service or to make a reservation, call 414-791-0703 or visit the website at lakegenevafishing.com.





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