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# Foilboarding:

## This fast-rising water sport is 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



JACK CRUGER PHOTO *Lake Living*

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.

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 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.

### LAKE LIVING

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**on the cover:** “The Boathouse” on Deakin Isle is situated on 192’ of premier shoreline. Rebuilt in 2015, this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home is bursting with historical details and architectural styles. A ballroom features original hard rock maple floors. All three Lauderdale Lakes are visible from numerous vantage points. The kitchen touts custom marble countertops, a farm sink, Wolf & Sub-Zero appliances. Master BR ensuite has a luxury freestanding tub, steam room, and private deck with fireplace. A finished swim basin provides access to the marque wet boathouse w/ underwater lighting. MLS 1888716 **Jerry Kroupa • 262-949-3618 • [jerrykroupa@atproperties.com](mailto:jerrykroupa@atproperties.com)**. See full listing on page 9!





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# Choosing a *lakefront* property

There are many reasons people fall in love with Wisconsin lakes. Spectacular sunrises and sunsets, good fishing, a tour of the water in a favorite boat, a beautiful backdrop to enjoy scenery and explore nature, or a place to reflect or get away from it all.

Many potential waterfront property buyers have a mental picture of the ideal lake setting and experience they would like.

There are many types and sizes of lakes, all with their own unique character and natural assets. Waterfront property is a big investment. Make sure you find the lake property that best matches your expectations and desired lake experience.

## *Know the whys*

Before you invest in a piece of waterfront property, spend some time thinking about your expectations.

Are you looking for a quiet retreat to get away from it all, or a place that is closer to more urban conveniences?

What activities do you plan on doing at your new lakefront home (enjoying natural scenery, fishing, water skiing, family gatherings, and recreation)?

Would owning waterfront property be a dream come true, a wise investment, or perhaps a little bit of both?

If having a sandy beach is very important to you, you may be disappointed with a lake that has a natural muck bottom. A natural shoreline may appeal to those seeking a quiet retreat, scenic beauty, or good fishing spots. If you enjoy power boating or water skiing, you may be looking for a deeper, larger lake that can accommodate the right equipment.

Try writing a list of desired features and uses for your lakefront property and then prioritize which are the most important to you. Be specific and don't settle for less. Honest answers will help you evaluate if your expectations are realistic and help you identify potentially suitable lakes. owner before you buy.

## *Lake size*

When evaluating waterfront property, the size (total acres of water) of a lake matters. Lake size can influence shoreland views, boating and fishing activity, and sense of community. On smaller lakes you may easily see the shoreline of your neighbor across the lake. On larger lakes, the opposite shore might be quite a distance; perhaps your view will be mostly water.

If you enjoy motorized watercraft,



Waterfront property is a big investment. Make sure you find the lake property that best matches your expectations and desired lake experience.

FILE PHOTO *Lake Living*

larger lakes may give you more area to maneuver your boat. Wisconsin law requires slow no wake on lakes that are 100 acres or less, and many lakes have local boating ordinances that may specify slow-no-wake areas, times, or other requirements. Lake size may influence the types of fish found in the lake and where they are found.

## *Water quality*

A lake's water quality can refer to water clarity – how many particles are suspended in the water and how far light can penetrate down into the water. Not all lakes will naturally have crystal clear water.

Water clarity affects the ability of fish to find food, how deep aquatic plants can grow, dissolved oxygen content, and water temperature. Water quality can also be used to describe how well the lake can support plants, fish, and other parts of a healthy lake ecosystem.

Lakes can be divided into three categories (trophic states) based on a lake's water clarity and nutrient levels. These trophic states can give you an idea of what features a lake is likely to have (clear waters, supportive of many or few aquatic plants or fish). If you enjoy swimming, are interested in a good fishing lake, or prefer

aquatic plants over algae, water clarity may indicate if a given lake is likely to work for you.

Water clarity can be influenced by polluted runoff from across a lake's watershed and from decisions made on the lake's shoreline. How lakefront property owners take care of their shorelines can dramatically affect whether a lake will be prone to algae blooms, invasive species, and what types of fish can survive in the lake.

## *Shorelines*

When you look out on the lake from your waterfront property, what type of view would you like to see? There are many unique features and shoreline types that can accommodate a wide variety of tastes. From quiet bays to open water, shoreland views can contribute to natural beauty, peace and quiet, a rural atmosphere, recreational activities, privacy, and other values important to a waterfront property experience.

Natural shorelines can be heavily forested up to the water's edge, filled with shrubs, populated with native flowers and plants with some species extending into the water at the shoreline. All can be

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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# Boaters:

## share the water to keep it safe

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds all boaters to monitor their speed and control their wake while underway, as it can negatively affect other boaters and aquatic ecosystems and cause shoreline erosion.

“Wake responsibility is not just about safety; it’s about respect for our beautiful natural resources and fellow water enthusiasts,” Lt. Darren Kuhn, DNR Boating Law Administrator, said. “We urge boaters to be mindful of their speed and wake size, especially in crowded or sensitive areas.”

Some helpful reminders to help boats responsibly manage their wakes include:

- Maintain a safe speed. Always adhere to posted speed limits and reduce speeds in congested areas like channels. Avoid repetitive passes in the same location.
  - Watch your wake. Be aware of the size and impact of your wake. Large wakes can cause damage to other vessels and docks, erode shorelines and even swamp or capsize other boats.
  - Respect no-wake zones. These areas are specifically designated to protect wildlife and reduce shoreline erosion. Teach your passengers. Ensure all aboard your boat understand wake safety and the rules.
  - More generally, boaters simply need to be mindful of each other and remember to share the water with other users, whether they’re wakeboarding, fishing, paddling or swimming.
- “We want everyone to enjoy Wisconsin’s waters while preserving them for future generations,” Kuhn said. “Let’s work together to make this boating season safe and enjoyable for all.”

### *Safety first*

Safety is the DNR’s top priority. Boaters should always be aware of their surroundings and operate their vessels at speeds appropriate for the current conditions, including weather, boat traffic and size of the water body.

Wearing life jackets, avoiding alcohol consumption while operating a boat and being considerate of others using the water are all part of being a responsible boater.

Whether it’s a fishing boat, a canoe,



Boaters should always be mindful of each other and remember to share the water with other users, whether they’re wakeboarding, fishing, paddling or swimming.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL PHOTO Lake Living

or a personal watercraft that “floats your boat,” operator inexperience, inattention, recklessness and speeding are the four leading causes of tragic watercraft crashes, and the leading cause of death is drowning.

Crash statistics indicate boaters who wear life jackets and take boater safety courses are most likely to stay safe on Wisconsin waters. Follow these basic safety tips and enjoy Wisconsin’s great lakes and rivers with family and friends.

### *Leave alcohol on shore*

Never use drugs or alcohol before or during boat operation. Alcohol’s effects are greatly exaggerated by exposure to sun, glare, wind, noise, and vibration.

### *The right equipment*

- Have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person onboard and one approved throwable device for any boat 16 feet and longer. The DNR recommends that everyone wear their life jackets while on the water.
- Have a fire extinguisher.
- Have operable boat lights; always test boat lights before the boat leaves the dock and carry extra batteries.
- Emergency supplies; keep on board in a floating pouch: cellphone, maps, flares and first aid kit.

### *Paddle board safety*

- Wear a life jacket. More than 90% of boat fatalities related to drowning involve victims not wearing life jackets. You need one for your safety and because Wisconsin

law, as well as U.S. Coast Guard law, treats paddleboards the same as kayaks and canoes. This means there must be a personal flotation device for each person on board. However, the best way to obey this law and to ensure your safety is to just wear the life jacket.

- Carry a whistle
- Be a competent swimmer
- Know how to self-rescue
- Be able to tow another board
- Become familiar with local regulations and navigation rules
- Understand the elements and hazards
- winds, tidal ranges, current, terrain
- Know when to wear a leash
- Be defensive – don’t go where you aren’t supposed to be and avoid other swimmers, boaters, paddleboards
- Use proper blade angle to be the most efficient paddle boarder
- Take a safety course.

### *Be weather wise*

Regardless of the season, keep a close eye on the weather and bring a radio. Sudden wind shifts, lightning flashes and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing. If bad weather is approaching, get off the water early to avoid a long waiting line in inclement weather.

### *Before heading out...*

- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Open all hatches and run the blower after you refuel and before getting

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CHRISTIE'S



**W1260 South Shore, Palmyra** - Your lakefront search stops here! Move-in ready two-story with walk-out lower level and 65' of frontage on Blue Spring Lake. Low-voltage lighting runs to the floating pier and boat ShoreStations which stay in year-round. Lakeside kitchen with large breakfast bar and dining area offer extended lake views and access to multi-level decking which leads to lake access. Lakeside level lawn and shed. Cozy living room with wood-burning fireplace. In-floor heating system upgraded in 2021 with backup furnace and new A/C system installed in 2025. Main floor laundry room and Master Suite with lakeside sitting room. Upstairs offers four bedrooms and a full bath. Lower-level rec room with sliding glass door for lake access. Blue Spring Lake is an all-sports lake with crystal clear water. **\$789,700**



**W5672 Ridge Rd, Elkhorn** - Experience lakeside luxury with this custom-built Thelen Construction home, offering 83' of private frontage on Lauderdale Lakes. This elegant 3BR, 2.5BA lake home is designed to impress, blending timeless craftsmanship with upscale finishes throughout. Enjoy stunning lake views from expansive windows, a gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, and a spacious open-concept layout perfect for entertaining. Step outside to a beautifully landscaped yard with ample space for lakeside relaxation and recreation. Trex balconies, screened porch w/ heaters facing the lake, LL family room, stone fireplaces, wet bars, zoned heating & heated 3 car garage. For additional fun, turn the rec space into a bar or gym. A rare opportunity to own a true luxury retreat on one of Wisconsin's most sought-after lakes. **\$1,699,700**



**N8367 Hillburn Mill Rd, Elkhorn** - The ultimate nature enthusiast property on a very private 5.73 acres, amongst majestic oak trees. You'll be impressed by this 5 BD, 3.5 bath, 2 story with finished walk-out. As you enter the foyer off the covered porch you're greeted by the LR with vaulted ceiling gas fireplace adjacent to Kitch with wood floors, large breakfast bar, granite tops and new Bosch appliances WiFi capable. Off the kitch you have a dinette with deck access, formal dining room plus den off dinette. Master BD ensuite with double vanity, soaking tub plus glass shower and walk-in closet. 2nd Bd with Vaulted ceiling. Upstairs offers a loft 3rd BD with sitting area, jack and jill bath & 4th Bd. Family room walk-out to cement patio, 5th Bd and ample storage. Walking trails throughout the woods and natural spring pond. **\$1,075,700**



**W5712 North Dr, Elkhorn** - Exquisitely remodeled in 2020, this stunning 3-bed, 2-bath ranch offers 92 feet of Middle Lake frontage with breathtaking, expansive views. The main level features soaring vaulted ceilings, a wall of sliding glass doors opening to a spacious wraparound deck, and a chef's kitchen with elegant Quartz countertops, designer backsplash, KitchenAid SS appliances, and a striking waterfall island with bar seating. A luxurious bedroom and spa-like bath with heated floors and a glass shower complete the main floor. The walk-out lower level boasts a chic beverage center, 2 additional bedrooms, a modern bath with glass shower, and laundry. Two 9x12 sheds, including one lakeside, lead to the pier and manicured yard. **\$1,099,700**



**W5693 Ridge Rd, Elkhorn** - This Lauderdale Lakefront home has everything you been looking for. Situated on 76' of Middle Lake frontage with southern exposure, offers you a 3BR, 3.5 multi-level with walk-out lower level to screened in porch. Main floor features living room with hardwood floors, natural fireplace and sliding glass door to deck, kitchen with breakfast bar and dinette with sliding glass door to 3 season room adjacent to deck offering extending lake views. On the second floor you'll find the master BR ensuite with sliding glass door to private balcony, plus 2nd and 3rd bedrooms and full bath. Lower-level family room with bar & walk-out to huge, screened porch and deck, full BA and laundry room. Level lakeside yard featuring shed, fire-pit and Forever Pier installed last summer. Come enjoy the lake life! **\$959,700**



**W5135 Sterlingworth Ct, Elkhorn** - Located in a prime spot at Sterlingworth Condominiums in the atrium, this 2-bedroom, 2-bath unit is just steps from the beach with its own boat slip. Enjoy stunning lake views through a wall of sliding glass doors leading to a spacious deck. The eat-in kitchen features a breakfast bar and dinette, while the living room offers a cozy gas fireplace. The master suite boasts an updated bath with a walk-in multi-head tile shower and double vanity. Wood flooring throughout. Direct access to the indoor pool, tennis and pickleball courts, and the finest sand beach on the lake. Just a short walk to Lauderdale Golf Course & minutes to Kettle Moraine trailhead. Turn-key for effortless lakefront living! **\$697,700**



**W5357 Lauderdale Dr, Elkhorn** - The iconic Lauderdale Lakes home, "The Boathouse" on Deakin Isle is situated on 192' of premier shoreline. Rebuilt in 2015 to its original 1915 Jazz Age glory, this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home is bursting with historical details and architectural styles. Ballroom features 1,200 sq ft with original hard rock maple floors, unique hanging Meiji era Japanese lanterns, with the original Opium Den prepped for a future hidden wine cellar. All 3 Lauderdale Lakes are visible from numerous vantage points throughout the four levels. Kitchen features custom marble countertops, farm sink, Wolf & Sub-Zero appliances. Master BR ensuite with luxury freestanding tub, full steam room, and private deck with fireplace. A finished swim basin provides access to the marquee wet boathouse w/ underwater lighting. **\$4,499,700**



**N7729 Laura Lane, Elkhorn** - Luxurious lakefront estate on Lauderdale Lakes' exclusive "Gold Coast" with 142' of pristine sand frontage and 1.28 acres of gated, wooded privacy, all on a private road for additional exclusivity. The 4BD, 4.5BA main home is designed for elevated lake living, with panoramic views, lakeside dining, a vaulted screened porch, and a lakeside primary suite with private deck. Entertain with ease in the walkout lower level featuring a family room, wet bar, brick fireplace & patio with fire pit. A rare wet boathouse includes a stunning 2BD/1BA guest cottage above with vaulted ceilings, full kitchen, living room, and screened porch. Premium amenities include a 36x30 heated/cooled garage with 4 vaulted rooms including workout room & dog run, plus an additional heated 3.5-car detached garage **\$3,199,997**



**S96W32955 Hickorywood Trl, Mukwonago** - Vacation at home in this stunning prairie style retreat. Your own everyday paradise. Enjoy resort-style living w/ inground pool, cabana bar, pergola, and sport court—perfect for both relaxation & recreation. Upon entering through the grand 2-story foyer, you'll be greeted by a spacious living room w/ vaulted ceilings, a gas fireplace, & a wall of windows offering breathtaking country views. The beautifully updated kitchen features stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, a breakfast bar, & a cozy dinette, all adjacent to a charming 3-season room with deck access. Master suite is a true retreat, boasting an ensuite w/ a glass steam shower, heated floors, a double vanity, & private screened porch. The walk-out LL is an entertainer's dream. This home offers both luxury & convenience **\$1,225,000**



**W5742 North Dr, Elkhorn** - Why go through the hassle of building when this 2023 custom built 4 Plus Bedroom, 3.5 bath two story is ready to enjoy. Situated on 75' of Middle lake frontage you'll find this open concept main level with wall of windows lakeside. Inside Kitchen offers everything the discriminating chef would demand and ultimate living and dining space with gas fireplace, custom wet-bar and deck access. Master Bdrm ensuite with breathtaking lake views offering double vanity, large tile shower and ample walk-in closet. Family room walk-out with gas fireplace, full bath, work-out room or Bdrm, 4th bdrm and screened porch. Kitchen also features large island/breakfast bar with Dekton countertops and Zline Autograph appliances. Outside fireplace and level lakefront yard by pier and storage shed. **\$1,565,000**



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## LAKEFRONT

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

beautiful but look quite different.

The slope of the shoreline can also be an important factor to consider. Some shorelines are steep, flat, or wet; these traits can affect how a shoreline is managed by property owners.

Some lakes have more developed shorelines with many lawns, piers, structures, open water or boats that may be clearly visible from your new waterfront property.

### *Lake culture*

Lakes all have their own unique character and are used in a variety of ways. When lake neighbors have similar ideas about the kind of lake they like to enjoy and work together to preserve that commonly valued experience, a lake culture is established.

Some lakes are popular with high-speed boaters, have sailing regattas or clubs, or host fishing tournaments in the summer and ice fishing shanties in the winter. Quieter pursuits – canoeing, hiking, small family gatherings, fishing – may be valued on other lakes. Connection to marinas, restaurants, bars and shopping varies between lakes.

While there are lakes dotted with small cabins or have pieces of shoreline in public ownership or be preserved by a local land trust or conservancy, others have resorts or camps that own pieces of lakefront property and use the lake. Then there are condos and single family dwellings, or are more densely developed. Pick a lake that resembles what you value in a lake experience.

For more information, visit [wisconsinlakes.org](http://wisconsinlakes.org).

## BOATERS

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

underway. Sniff for fumes before starting the engine and if you smell fumes, do not start the engine.

- Check the boat landing for any local regulations that apply.

### *Follow the rules*

Never allow passengers to ride on gunwales or seatbacks or outside of protective railings, including the front of a pontoon boat. A sudden turn, stop or start could cause a fall overboard.

After leaving the boat launch, maintain slow-no-wake speed for a safe and legal distance from the launch.

Follow boat traffic rules. Learn more about boating safety on the DNR's website by visiting [dnr.wisconsin.gov](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov) and searching "boat safety."



## 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 sports, 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.

"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," said Carl Blackwell, Discover Boating president. "Boating offers something for everyone – from fishing to wakeboarding to cruising and more. Today's boats are more versatile than ever, making boating fun and accessible for every interest, lifestyle and budget."

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 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. Water sports are fun for the whole family and a great workout, plus they're an easy way to get the kids to play outside.

Spend some time researching 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.

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.

### *Enjoy the summer*

Check out on-water options in your area. Start by visiting [DiscoverBoating.com](http://DiscoverBoating.com), which can serve as a beginner's guide. 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)

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.

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# Why many people love living on a Lake



PIXELS.COM/PHOTO Lake Living

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 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



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# Review of water skier safety codes

STOCK PHOTO Lake Living

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 about water skiing, visit [usawaterskiandwakesports.org](http://usawaterskiandwakesports.org).*

## 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.



# Be prepared for the warm weather

## Reminders on how to best cope with the heat of summer

Summer can be hot, sticky and downright uncomfortable. It can also be dangerous if you are not prepared. 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. Also be sure your car's air conditioner is in good working order, whether planning a road trip or just preparing for a heat wave.

### 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 award-winning AccuWeather app is available on all of 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.

### 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 sports drink with you at all times but especially when exercising, spending time in or on the lake, or just making your way around town running errands. Also, 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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# Licenses needed for anglers 16 and older

*2025 resident, nonresident costs for licenses, stamps, tags*

In Wisconsin, kids 15 and younger can fish without a license. For everybody else, various license options can get people out on the water quickly and easily.

“Get your license to relax and enjoy what Wisconsin has to offer,” state Department of Natural Resources representatives said.

The following discounted license options are available but cannot be purchased online. For more information, visit a DNR sales location:

- Disabled
- Veteran
- Active-duty military on furlough or leave who are Wisconsin residents and veterans.

## Where to purchase

Unless otherwise noted, all licenses are available for purchase through the DNR’s Go Wild website at [gowild.wi.gov](http://gowild.wi.gov), sales locations or at one of the DNR Service Centers.

A valid driver’s license or social security number will be needed to purchase a fishing license at [gowild.wi.gov](http://gowild.wi.gov).

Service Center counters are open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The centers located closest to this area include:

- Janesville – 2514 Morse St. Phone: 608-743-4800
- Waukesha – 141 NW Barstow, Room 180. Phone: 414-897-5773
- Milwaukee – 1027 W. St. Paul Ave. Phone: 414-263-8500

Retailers throughout the state serve as license agents for the DNR. To find one near you, visit [dnr.wisconsin.gov](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov), click on the Fishing tab, select “Get a fishing license” and on the following page, choose sales locations for an interactive map.

## Resident general

- Individual (annual) fishing license, \$20.
- First-time buyer – for those who haven’t fished in Wisconsin before or want to return to fishing after 10-plus years without a license, \$5.
- One-day fishing license, \$8 – can be used toward an upgrade to an annual fishing license for \$12.75.
- Reduced-rate fishing license, \$7 – required of anglers 16 and 17 years of age and anglers 65 years of age and older. Residents born before 1927 do not need a fishing license but should carry proof of their age when fishing. Note that nonresident senior citizens must purchase a regular nonresident license.
- Junior license, 16-17 years old, \$7

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

## 2025-26 fishing seasons

Opening day for Wisconsin fishing is traditionally the first Saturday in May. Season dates are often specific to the species of fish as well as the water body.

**Early inland trout**  
(catch and release)  
Jan. 4 to May 2

**General inland trout**  
May 3 (5 a.m.) to Oct. 15

**General inland fishing**  
May 4 to March 1, 2026

**Largemouth Bass Northern Zone Harvest**  
May 4 to March 2, 2026

**Smallmouth Bass Northern Zone Harvest**  
June 21 to March 1, 2026

**Large and Smallmouth Bass Southern Zone Harvest**  
May 3 to March 1, 2026

**Large and Smallmouth Bass Catch and Release**  
At all other times of the year

**Musky Northern Zone Harvest**  
May 24 to Dec. 31

**Musky Southern Zone Harvest**  
May 3 to Dec. 31

**Northern Pike**  
May 3 to March 1, 2026

**Walleye**  
May 3 to March 1, 2026

**Lake Sturgeon**  
Sept. 2 to Sept. 30 (hook-and-line)

Species not listed have no open season. For species that are listed, it is illegal to fish for those species during the closed season – this includes catch-and-release fishing. Temporary or emergency rules may be enacted, which could change the fishing season dates for a species or body of water. If that happens, the DNR advises to look for signs posted at boat landings.

## Free fishing weekends

June 7-8 • Jan. 17-18, 2026  
For more information, visit [drn.wi.gov](http://drn.wi.gov).

There are various fishing license options in Wisconsin for resident and nonresidents. Discounts are available for first-time buyers, those who are disabled, veterans and active-duty military on furlough or leave.

FILE PHOTO Lake Living



• Senior citizen license, 65 and older, \$7

• Spousal license, \$31 – this license is issued to a legally married husband and wife who meet residency requirements.

• Inland Trout Stamp Privilege (residents and nonresidents), \$10 – see the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for license restrictions. The stamp is required in addition to a fishing license to fish trout on tributaries to Lake Superior and all inland waters, except Green Bay and Lake Michigan tributaries up to the first dam or lake.

• Sports license \$60 – this license allows for fishing and hunting of small game and gun deer. (Nonresident fee, \$275).

• Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp, \$10 – required in addition to fishing license to fish trout or salmon on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay and the tributaries of Lake Michigan and Green Bay up to the first dam or lake.

• Two-day Great Lakes

Fishing, \$14 – this license entitles a resident to fish the outlying waters of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Green Bay, as well as Lake Michigan and Green Bay tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake. It includes Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamp.

• Two-day Inland Lake Trout Fishing, \$14 – this license authorizes fishing for trout on inland lakes (includes inland trout stamp.)

### Resident miscellaneous

For the following license options, residents must require allowable forms of proof. See the DNR website for details.

- Disabled, \$7
- Veteran/disabled, \$3
- Armed forces, \$0

There are additional resident licenses as well as non-resident options. All annual licenses are valid from date of purchase through March 31, 2025.

For more information, visit [dnr.wisconsin.gov](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov) or call 1-888-936-7463.

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# 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.

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).

Those who are 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 worth considering when making the decision.

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# Safety tips for boats and watercraft

Sea-Doo suggests keeping these safety tips in your watercraft or boat at all times and make sure that you and everyone aboard understands them all prior to leaving dock and observes them once out on the water.

- Know and understand all operational features of the craft you are riding – read and follow your operator's guide.

- Ensure your watercraft is Coast Guard-compliant and has all required equipment.

Securely attach engine cutoff lanyard to your wrist or Personal Flotation Device. Keep attached at all times.

- All watercraft riders must wear a properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD. The operator and passenger(s) of watercraft must wear protective clothing, including:

- A wet suit bottom or thick, tightly woven, snug-fitting clothing that provides equivalent protection. Thin bike shorts for example would not be appropriate. Severe internal injuries can occur if water is forced into body cavities as a result of falling into water or being near jet thrust nozzle.

- Normal swimwear does not adequately protect against forceful water entry into the lower body opening(s) of males or females.

- Footwear, gloves and goggles/glasses are also recommended. Some type of lightweight, flexible foot protection is recommended. This will help reduce possible injury, should you step on sharp underwater objects.

- Know your vessel's capacity – don't overload.

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Constantly look in all directions for skiers, divers, swimmers and



Follow the rules of the waterways when having fun out on the lake, whether riding a jet ski or driving a boat. There is room for all enthusiasts on the lake if everyone stays alert.

FILE PHOTO Lake Living

other boats or watercraft.

- Keep a safe distance! Avoid wake jumping, splashing and passing close to any other vessels.

- Know the waters you will be operating in and observe all applicable federal, state and local boating laws.

- Know the weather conditions – tune into your local forecast.

- Stay clear of all restricted areas.

- Obey all posted signs, such as “No Wake,” “Right of Way,” “Idle” and other navigation signs.

- Never consume alcohol or drugs before or while operating a watercraft or boat.

- All operators must be of legal age to operate the craft you will be riding.

- BRP recommends a minimum operator of 16 years of age to ride.

- Always operate at a safe speed and be prepared to stop or alter course in emergencies. Ride within your limits, and allow sufficient distance to stop.

- Whether you're heading in or out, always maintain a slow speed until you're in a clear area, away from shore.

- Know and understand right-of-way rules.

- Remember you need throttle power to steer.

- Stay in sight of shore, but avoid operating too close to residential and congested areas. Be considerate of others who share the waterways.

- A boating safety course is strongly recommended.

For more information, visit the Sea-Doo website at [www.sea-doo.com](http://www.sea-doo.com).

## DNR launches Fishing Finder tool:

*It offers a variety of information for anglers*

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

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



# The best & brightest

## How to attract the most colorful birds

Sparrows to doves, mockingbirds to magpies, every bird that visits your backyard brings its unique brand of delight. Yet when a particularly colorful species shows up, you can't help but feel a special thrill. You can take steps to draw the most colorful species to your feeder and fill your backyard with their vibrant, bright displays throughout the season.

First, research what types of birds live in your region. Next, take action to make your backyard attractive to the birds you want to attract. The experts at Cole's Wild Bird Products offer some expert tips:

### BLUEBIRDS

Don't mistake the sassy blue jay for a bluebird. These brightly colored birds sport brilliant blue feathers on their heads, backs and the tops of their wings, and warm russet fading to white on their bellies.

Bluebirds love spice and suet, so try a feed with some kick, like Blazing Hot Blend. All natural and chemical free, this blend combines a patented habanero chili oil formula (which appeals to birds but keeps squirrels at bay) with the most-preferred types of seeds. They love every form of suet. They also favor mealworms, which Cole's offers in a dry version.

### GOLDFINCHES

When one of these bright yellow and black birds visits your yard, it's like a slice of sunshine has settled at your feeder. With vivid yellow bodies, black masks above their beaks and black and white striping on their wings, goldfinches are among the flashiest visitors to backyards. Lure them



with sunflower, and thistle bird seeds, or try Finch Friends which combines their two favorites in one mix.

### INDIGO BUNTING

Another beautiful blue bird, the indigo bunting is also known for its boisterous and lovely song. Indigo buntings favor seeds and berries, but will also eat insects. To beckon this bunting to your backyard, try serving White Millet.

### BALTIMORE ORIOLES

That blaze of brilliant orange, capped by black may herald the arrival of a Baltimore oriole in your backyard. Woo these flashy fellows by serving cut fruit and berries, as well as peanut butter and suet. Cole's Natural Peanut Suet Cake delivers the peanut butter base that orioles and other songbirds prefer, paired with the energy benefits of nutrient-dense suet.

Orioles will try and feed off of hummingbird feeders, they like the nectar.

### CARDINALS

Among the best-known and most-loved backyard beauties, cardinals vary in hue from the brilliant red of the males to the more subdued brownish red of females.

Both have black around the beak and dark feathers on the wings and back. Cardinals are seed eaters and are fond of Safflower and Cole's "Hot Meats," seed.

They are attracted to the bitter taste of Safflower and go nuts for the spicy flavor of Hot Meats (sunflower meats infused with fiery hot habanero chilies.) A great no-waste, no-mess feed, it delivers more feed per pound, and no cleanup.

The chili peppers taste hot to mammals like squirrels, but birds do not feel the heat. Cardinals also appreciate suet.

(BPT)



## FISHING FINDER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

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).



**Karen Ostermeier**  
Lauderdale Lakes Resident & Specialist



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