

Lake living

LIFE ON THE WATER IN THE SOUTHERN LAKES AREA

SPRING 2024



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W5369 Baywood Dr, Elkhorn - Welcome to your home that's surrounded by lake views, a large yard for family fun as well as plenty of parking for everyone. Enjoy amazing 4th of July fireworks with the best seats in the house. Situated on 103' of level frontage on 0.81 of an acre, you'll find an updated, move in ready, 4BR, 3BA, two story home with upper end finishes. The large vaulted ceiling kitchen has an adjacent dining area & bonus playroom/den. The family room, also with vaulted ceilings, features a wall of windows that welcomes the lake inside. The living room with a natural fireplace and sliders leads to a spacious brick patio. **\$2,199,700**



Lto West Shore Dr, Elkhorn - Green Lake vacant lakefront lot with 75' of level Sunset filled frontage on 0.65 acre lot on Lauderdale Lakes. Lot features slight wooded slope from road which leads you to level frontage and private pier. You'll appreciate the additional 50 x 100 lot across the street offering additional parking and storage. Walking distance to Lauderdale Landing and minutes to boat launch. Kettle Moraine trails 3 miles away. Build the home you've been dreaming of. **\$520,000**



300 W St, Palmyra - Located downtown Palmyra you'll find this Turnkey established Restaurant/Bar and separate 4 lane bowling alley waiting for an energetic entrepreneur to bring their vision to life. Restaurant/Bar has a seating capacity of 173 with an updated kitchen in 2019. Charming bar area overlooking main street and soaring ceilings in the dining area. Potential outdoor space for a beer garden and additional space to expand the bar area or rental opportunity. Income producing apartments on the second floor which consist of a 3 Bd, 2 Bd and 1Bd currently rented. Liquor license included. Palmyra is in the heart of the Southern unit of Kettle Moraine Forest offering hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails. Minutes from Blue Spring Lake and steps to Lower Spring Lake. **\$749,700**



W4910 Oakwood Dr, Elkhorn - Rare opportunity to own a private 1.5 acres with 99' of frontage on Pleasant Lake. You'll enjoy the main level with vaulted ceilings and hickory flooring. Living room has a stone fireplace, galley Kitch that leads to lakeside dining room with slider to deck, offering outstanding lake views. Also included on the main, there's a large Primary BR, 2nd BR and full bath. Lower-level Family room walk-out to cement patio. Family room features wood fireplace, 3rd BR, full bath, laundry room & storage. Slight slope leads you to the L shape pier. Backside of the lot is level and open. Short drive to Kettle Moraine Trail head offering Mountain Biking, Hiking and Cross Country Skiing. Minutes to a boat launch on Lauderdale Lakes. Quiet Pleasant Lake road is great for long walks. Come take a look! **\$739,900**



N7391 Lost Nation, Elkhorn - Updated and move in ready for summertime fun. Fully furnished w/ RH furniture! You'll find this 4 BD, 3.5 bath Cape Cod with boat slip on Lauderdale Lakes. Situated on a private, wooded landscaped 1.14 acres. Featuring vaulted ceiling throughout the main level, kitchen offering large peninsula breakfast bar with quartz tops, Viking and Miele appliances, dining area with slider to deck and cement patio that leads to covered porch. Living room gas fireplace. Master BD ensuite with access to covered porch. The lower level offers a family room with English windows, 4th BD, 3rd full bath and a large storage room. Dream 3 car attached heated garage with polyurethane floors with drain gates and wash sink. Partially fenced backyard. **\$799,700**



38 & 42 N West St, Elkhorn - Located on the West end of town you will find this great investment duplex, each side offering 3 Bdrms, 1.5 baths, gas fireplace in Living Room with sliding glass door to cement patio, full basement and oversized 2 car attached garage. Unit 42 has just been completely updated inside with quartz counter tops in the kitchen with SS appliances. Backyard overlooks bird sanctuary wetland, great for viewing and privacy. Brand new roof just installed on both units. Unit 38 has tenants of 14 years looking to stay. Convenient location, come see for yourself. **\$499,000**



W5361 Lost Nation, Elkhorn - You're welcomed to the lake as you walk in with extended southern views of Mill Lake with 50' of frontage. Updated 3 BR, 3.5 BA makes this an ideal lake retreat. Open concept main floor featuring LR, Sunroom, Full bath and kitchen with quartz tops, SS appliances, breakfast bar and coffee bar with wine fridge, grilling deck, dining area & wood floors throughout. Upstairs features two lakeside bedrooms, one with powder room, full bath and game area. Lower level walk-out with lakeside bedroom and full shared bath, laundry and small rec area with slider to lakeside deck that leads to firepit and pier. 1.5 detached garage across the street with wooded area behind. Dive off the pier into some of the best swimming on the lake. Turn key furniture package included and quick closing. **\$1,375,000**

Know water skier safety codes



Water skiing 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. It 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.

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

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 USA Water Ski and Wake Sports at usawaterskiandwakesports.org.

Before getting up on the skis, make sure you know the rules. Even longtime water skiers could benefit from a quick review along with reminders on the standard hand signals to use when out on the lake.

STOCK PHOTO Lake Living

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Licenses needed for anglers 16 and older

2024 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.

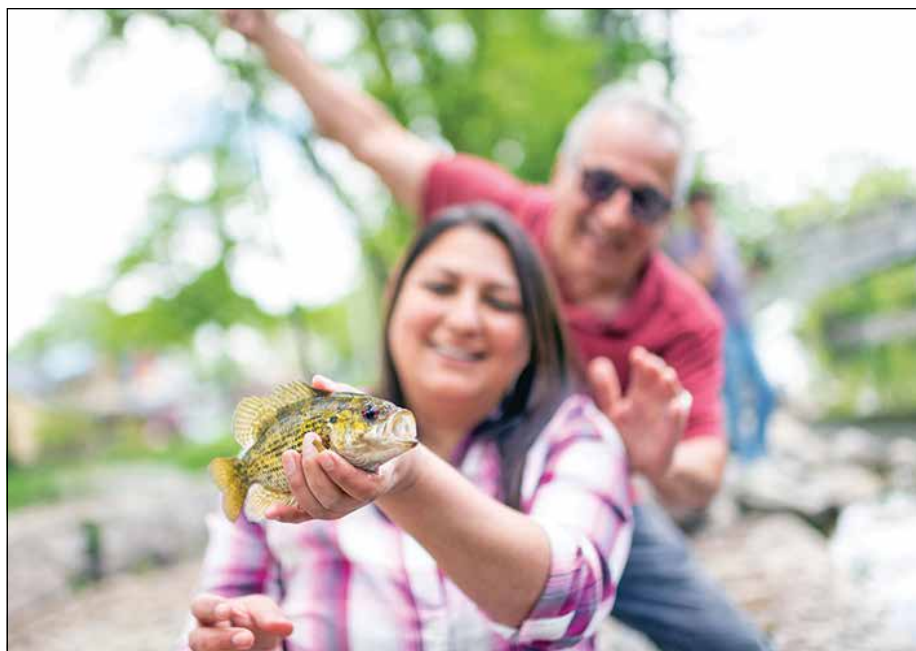
“Get your license to relax and enjoy what Wisconsin has to offer,” state Department of Natural Resources representatives said.

For those getting their first license or just visiting, discounted license options are available, including:

- First-time buyer license – for those who haven’t fished in Wisconsin before or want to return to fishing after at least 10 years without a license.
- One-day fishing license – for anglers who want to try fishing in the state for one day only.
- Resident anglers who recruit someone new to purchase a first-time buyer license can earn points toward a reduced-price license of their choice.
- Active-duty military on furlough or leave who are Wisconsin residents and veterans.

Resident general

- Individual (annual) fishing license, \$20.
- First-time buyer, \$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.
- 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



While kids who are 15 years old and younger do not require a license in Wisconsin, there are various options to get everybody else out fishing quickly and easily, according to the Department of Natural Resources. Options include resident and nonresident licenses as well as discounts for first-time buyers, one-day licenses, active-duty military on furlough or leave who are state residents, and veterans.

PHOTO COURTESY DAVID NEVALA *Lake Living*

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. License 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

- Fishing, disabled, \$7 – anglers must provide one of the following as proof: Social Security Disability Award Notice issued within the past year, Letter from Social Security Administration advising the customer is currently receiving disability benefits, Letter or Notice of Railroad Retirement Disability, or signed statement from a licensed physician or optometrist indicating that the customer’s sight is impaired to the degree that he/she cannot read ordinary newspaper print with or

without corrective glasses. Discount applies to resident fishing license only. Note that disabled nonresidents need to buy a regular nonresident license.

- Fishing, veteran/disabled, \$3 – veterans must provide one of the following as proof: Veteran’s Disability Award Letter showing benefits are being paid for a disability of 70 percent or more, or Letter from Veterans Administration that indicates customer is receiving benefits for a service-related disability of 70 percent or more. Nonresident disabled veterans must purchase a regular nonresident license.
- Fishing, armed forces, \$0 – annual resident armed forces fishing license for members of the U.S. armed forces who exhibit proof that they are in active service with the armed forces and that they are a resident on furlough or leave (includes the inland trout and Great Lakes salmon stamps).

Nonresident

- Individual (annual) fishing license, \$55.
- Family (annual) license, \$70 – includes children 16 and 17 years old (Note: Family licenses do not include grandchildren ages 16 and 17 years old).
- First-time buyer, \$25.75.
- One-day fishing license, \$15 – in the event the angler purchases an annual license, can be used toward that upgrade for \$40.75.
- Four-day individual license, \$29.
- 15-day individual license, \$33.
- 15-day family license, \$45 – Includes children 16-17 years old (Note: Family

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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Tips to find the right boat dealer

If considering a boat purchase, keep in mind that the dealer you decide to do business with will have a huge impact on the boat-buying as well as the overall ownership experience.

Depending on location, there might be only one dealer that carries the model of boat you want. However, if you're torn between two or three styles or models and are open to different brands and dealers, the quality of the dealership and its staff may very well help sway your decision.

Some points of comparison are relatively easy to figure out. For instance, if you are partial to a specific engine make, a dealer who services that engine might rank higher than another dealer.

According to the experts at Discover Boating, selecting the boat based upon the ability to get your boat serviced by factory-trained personnel should be a factor when deciding which boat to buy and from what dealer.

Other factors – such as customer service and a commitment to the brand of boat you'd like to purchase, and more – can be more challenging to determine.

Here are some elements to look for at the dealership as a way to identify dealers who are more likely to enhance your buying experience.

Attentive, engaging staff

Do the staff at the dealership seem happy and do you like them? If you find that people in the store are attentive, engaging and genuinely happy to see you, it bodes well for the future.

It's always nice to work with people you like and, unlike a traditional retail interaction, a boat dealership is one business that you'll likely develop an ongoing relationship with.

Do your research

If the positive reports about the dealership far outweigh the critical posts, it's likely a good reflection of their overall customer service.

Keep in mind that nearly every business will have some customers who are unreasonable and unhappy regardless of how they were treated.

Staff responsiveness

Is the staff prompt in returning phone calls and emails? A salesperson's willingness to work with you by phone or



email is a great timesaver and a positive sign for the future.

Make sure to ask for an email confirmation of any agreements or details worked out by phone as it's important to have something on paper for future reference.

Certifications/awards

If the dealership is certified or has received any industry awards or local community accolades, these are good signs.

A Marine Industry Certified Dealership, for example, has made a commitment to put its customers first. It begins with the Consumer Bill of Rights setting the bar to provide outstanding and ever-improving customer sales and service experience.

It's worth checking out Boating Industry's Top 100 dealer list, which includes some of the most customer-centric dealers in the country. But even if no local dealers are listed, there are many factors that speak to their reputation including community involvement, which indicates a dealership has a customer-first organizational focus.

Outward appearance

Are the yard and showroom of the dealership clean and organized? If so, it's usually an attribute of a well-run organization. If they take care of their space, it's an indicator of how they'll care for you and your boat during and after the sale.

Solid service

Take time to talk to the service manager who should be pleasant, helpful, have time for you and run a relatively clean, organized shop.

You want to know that your boat is in good hands when it comes time for maintenance. The service manager should offer assurance that they will take good care of you and your boat in the future.

Another inquiry to make is if the service department holds manufacturer certifications. Many engine manufacturers offer certification programs designed to keep dealer-based mechanics up to date on the latest technology. While it's not necessarily a make-or-break situation for many, a dealership whose technicians are certified bodes well for them being able to properly care for your boat.

Consider the location

Is the dealership conveniently located to where your boat will live? Choosing a dealer far from where you plan to keep your boat is generally a huge disadvantage.

A good practice is to purchase your boat from the dealership where you plan to have it serviced. It will be much more convenient and ensure you get the high level of after-the-sale service you deserve. A dealer who will come to your marina or dock to service and repair the boat in the water is an even greater benefit.

For more information, visit discoverboating.com.

When shopping for a dealer to purchase your new boat or watercraft from, there are numerous factors to consider including the dealership's location, references, certifications and helpfulness of the staff. Not only will this make the buying process more enjoyable but also maintenance, the latter of which could easily be a long-term relationship.

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American Red Cross water safety tips

It only takes a moment. A child or weak swimmer can drown in the time it takes to reply to a text, check a fishing line or apply sunscreen.

Death and injury from drownings happen every day in home pools and hot tubs, at the beach or in oceans, lakes, rivers and streams, bathtubs, and even buckets.

The Red Cross believes that by working together to improve water competency – which includes swimming skills, water smarts and helping others – water activities can be safer... and just as much fun.

Water competency is a way of improving water safety for yourself and those around you by avoiding common dangers, developing fundamental safety skills to make you safer in and around the water, and knowing how to prevent and respond to drowning emergencies. It's three components are water smarts, swimming skills and helping others.

Water smarts

Take these sensible precautions when you're around water (even if you're not planning to swim):

- Know your limitations, including physical fitness, medical conditions.
- Never swim alone; swim with lifeguards and/or water watchers present.
- Be a "water watcher" – provide close and constant attention to children you are supervising; avoid distractions.
- Wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket appropriate for your weight and size and the water activity. Always wear a life jacket while boating, regardless of swimming skill.
- Swim sober. Don't use alcohol or drugs (including certain prescription medications) before or while swimming, diving or supervising swimmers.
- Understand the dangers of hyperventilation and hypoxic blackout.
- Know how to call for help.
- Teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Even if lifeguards are present, an adult should stay with children.
- Understand and adjust for the unique risks of the water environment you are in, such as: currents, water temperature, shallow or unclear water, underwater hazards, such as vegetation and animals.

Swimming skills

Learn how to perform these five skills in every type of water environment:

- Enter water that's over your head, then return to the surface.
- Float or tread water for 1 minute.
- Turn over and turn around in the water.
- Swim at least 25 yards.
- Exit the water.



Among tips from the American Red Cross about how to stay safe while on or around water is a reminder to wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket appropriate for your weight and size as well as the water activity.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL PHOTO *Lake Living*

Helping others

These actions will help your family avoid emergencies – and help you respond if an emergency occurs:

- Paying close attention to children or weak swimmers you are supervising in or near water.
- Knowing the signs that someone is drowning.
- Knowing ways to safely assist a drowning person, such as "reach or throw, don't go".
- Knowing CPR and first aid.

Lifeguards are important

It's estimated eight out of 10 Americans participate in water activities such as going to the beach, pool, waterpark, or boating or fishing this summer.

While stronger swimming skills reduce the risk of drowning, a very low percentage of adults take swimming lessons, and roughly only 20 percent of children do so.

"Parents and caregivers should take advantage of the summer months to enroll children in Red Cross swim lessons and download the free Red Cross Swim App to track their progress," officials said.

"Parents and caregivers, in addition to learning how to swim, should also know critical water safety rules and know how to respond to a water emergency, so they can protect children and others," they added.

Red Cross swimming lessons help people develop skills and water safety behaviors that help people become more comfortable and safe when they are in, on and around the water. The Red Cross encourages all household members to enroll in age-appropriate water orientation and Learn-to-Swim programs.

To find classes, contact your local aquatic facility and ask for Red Cross swimming and water safety programs.

By being smart and aware, and taking necessary precautions, time around water can be safer for all involved.

"As we all gear up for trips to the pool, beach, rivers and lakes, we're asking that adults everywhere make water safety a priority," officials said.

"Families need to make sure that both adults and children have the knowledge and skills they need to be safe in and around the water," they added.

About the Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional in disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and donations. For more information, visit redcross.org.



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Ways to add 'wow' to outdoor living space

Turning your backyard into an outdoor living oasis can be a tough project to start. Between product choices and design ideas, planning your ideal outdoor space can mean a lot of research and time at the local home improvement store.

To simplify your project, many companies are integrating their outdoor living products, creating collections that are specifically designed to work together.

Here are some ways you can take advantage and create a beautiful and inviting space in your own backyard:

Create an unblemished deck surface

Sometimes the most beautiful part of a deck is what you don't see.

To help blend interior and exterior spaces, using hidden fasteners can create an unblemished deck surface similar to wood flooring. Hidden fasteners fit into grooves on the sides of the deck boards, which keeps nails and screws out of sight. This innovative option eliminates unsightly screw heads, creating a beautiful, safer deck.

Some manufacturers even back their deck clips with as much as a limited lifetime warranty against loose deck boards, which provides homeowners peace of mind on the quality of their fasteners.

Choose attractive, durable decking

Where wood decking was once the only option, innovations in technology have allowed many advancements in the types of decking boards available.

One of the fastest growing outdoor products is composite decking, which features boards made of recycled plastics and wood fibers. Such boards are eco-friendly and offer long-term durability.

Although composite decking may cost more than wood decking upfront, many homeowners value the higher performance



and decreased maintenance requirements of composites, which will save you time and money over the lifetime of your deck. Unlike wood, composites do not need annual painting or staining, and maintain a great appearance with soap and water cleaning.

Some boards are even specially designed to mimic the look of high-end hardwoods, offering the luxurious finishes of these exotic wood species without the upkeep. Innovative brands, like MoistureShield, pair these high-end looks with proven performance protected by a transferable lifetime warranty, making it easy to relax on deck.

Add some lighting

Lighting is one of the top two outdoor design elements that landscape architects say is popular this year, according to the American Society of Landscape Architects. Decking manufacturers have responded to this trend by expanding their decking collections to include lighting lines optimized for easy installation with their board and railing options.

The new variety of lighting options, including recessed bullet lights, under rail strip lights, stair lights and post lights can seem overwhelming and difficult to install.

Energy-efficient LEDs has made installation of these lights easier, and performance has improved, making design possibilities limitless.

Some systems are sold as plug-and-play to help eliminate the need for an electrician, which allows do-it-yourselfers and deck builders to install the lights on their own.

These lights not only look great, they also help streamline the product selection and installation process by ensuring lights that perform well with the manufacturer's decking and railing.

Accent with railings

One of the quickest ways to enhance your outdoor living design is by adding a contemporary deck railing. Railing options are designed to enhance the overall look of your deck, reduce maintenance of your space and improve your views.

To accomplish this, many decks are being built with mixed medium railings, such as cable infills or tempered glass panels. As these railing selections become more specialized, it's important to educate yourself about product warranties and installation recommendations to be sure you get the right product for your needs.

Among the many choices, aluminum railing systems can provide a modern look at a more affordable price and are available in many color options. These systems may also be available in easy-to-install kits and are typically designed to adapt to the mixed medium infills.

They provide a wide range of sophisticated styles to complement the sleek, modern designs of composite decking and are available with longer warranties than other options like vinyl railing.

Putting it all together

By offering a wider range of accessories, manufacturers are making it easier for builders and do-it-yourselfers to find products that work well together.

"A family of products designed to work together helps simplify the building process and creates a beautiful, long-lasting deck," MoistureShield composite decking representatives said. "Our goal is to align the warranties and performance on all of our decking and accessories, to create a package of consistent options."

(BPT)

There are many ways to spruce up outdoor space, from the decking you choose to lighting and railings. While many homeowners prefer wood decks, others are turning to composite for the limited amount of maintenance required.

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Make fishing a fun outing for the family

There may be nothing sweeter in this big, wide world than gazing upon photos and videos of kids, nieces and nephews, and grandkids – with smiles a mile wide – holding up what they think is a huge “monster” fish (even if it’s just a small sunfish or bluegill), or photos of the family all together enjoying a day of fishing and having fun on the water.

If you love fishing and you want to share it with your family, it’s important to put a little planning in up front to help the experience go as smooth as it can to create those lasting memories and those stories that will be told for years of the monsters that were caught, and the big ones that got away.

To help you introduce the ones you love to a lifetime of fishing fun, the folks at Rapala, the legendary lure maker, offer these tips:

Cherish the little wins

If you have smaller kids or beginners in the family, it’s likely they’ll be pulling up smaller catches. Though their sunfish might look measly to you, they might think it’s a monster! Hint, hint: So should you. Snap a picture to remember the beaming look on their faces and use this opportunity to show them how to conserve fish for future generations.

Let them guide you

When and where it’s safe, let the kids “co-pilot” with you by operating your boat’s trolling motor and guide you to the perfect spot. Kids want to experience what the adults do.

Operating a trolling motor will give them experience in positioning the boat and learning how to properly and safely approach a spot.

Expand the circle

Families come in all shapes and sizes nowadays. Use fishing as an opportunity to gather in the great outdoors and share some precious time together.

Involve your partner or spouse, uncles and aunts, grandparents and close friends who feel like family. A day on or near the water can be a great way for a family to get away from our always-on digital world.

Use quality gear

Don’t skimp on cheap fishing gear. If your low-quality fishing gear breaks or malfunctions, it could ruin the moment. Good gear doesn’t cost a fortune.

Choose gear with a lot of positive reviews and fishing lures, like Rapala lures, which are well-known for catching fish.

Similarly, be prepared for accidents



A little planning goes a long way in making a family fishing trip fun for everyone. Stock up on snacks, get the gear ready and don’t forget to take some photos and videos out on the water to capture the special moments.

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that happen and practice patience if a rod tip gets broken, a fishing rod falls into the water, or a fishing lure gets stuck high up in a tree. Remember, stuff happens.

Safety first

Being in or around water means safety comes first. Make sure everyone has lifejackets, stays hydrated, and that you brief the kids on hook and water safety before handing over the rod.

Remember to check the weather ahead of time so you can bundle up if it’s a crisp morning, and bring sunscreen and hats if the sun is blazing.

Bring a scale

Practice catch-weigh-photo-release to get the family in the swing of things. You can even have a competition to see who had the heaviest catch!

Weigh the fish caught with a Rapala scale, perfect for taking photos that display just how hefty your catch is.

Don’t forget the snacks!

Make everyone’s day and keep spirits high by bringing special treats along for the ride. Ask each family member their favorite snack beforehand to make sure everyone is included. The only “hangry” ones on your fishing trip should be the fish!

Think beyond fishing

Tell stories, take pictures, and bring

coloring books for the little ones if they need a break. And remember, it’s okay if not everyone wants to fish.

Some members of your family may not be too keen on fishing. Make sure they feel welcome and invite them to read a book or do another activity while others in your family are fishing. They will surely want to be there when the others are showing their catches off.

Fishing is about learning

Fishing can be fun, but it’s also an opportunity to be part of nature and experience other precious moments, such as watching other wildlife (turtles, frogs, ducks, squirrels), identifying plants and trees, learning how a boat works, and trying different types of presentations to see which one is most effective in catching fish.

If some members of your family really turn on to fishing, feed that passion with videos about fishing. Rapala has more than 600 informative videos on its YouTube channel alone.

Make a video

Take lots of photos and videos of your fishing trips with the family, then create a short movie with iMovie to help them relive the memories of fishing when it’s cold and wet outside.

It’ll be fun to make, and the final product will be a memento your family will cherish forever.

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Season dates for fishing in Wisconsin may vary to fish species and the water body. Traditionally, opening day is the first Saturday in May and there are two free fishing weekends each season, on the first Saturday and Sunday in June as well as the third Saturday and Sunday in January.

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2024-25 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.

Northern Pike

May 4 to March 2, 2025

Walleye

May 4 to March 2, 2025

Early inland trout

(catch and release)

Jan. 6 (5 a.m.) to May 3

General inland trout

May 4 (5 a.m.) to Oct. 15

General inland fishing

May 4 to March 2, 2025

Largemouth Bass

Northern Zone harvest

May 4 to March 2, 2025

Smallmouth Bass

Northern Zone Harvest

June 15 to March 2, 2025

Large and Smallmouth

Bass Southern

Zone Harvest

May 4 to March 2, 2025

Large and Smallmouth

Bass Catch and Release

At all other times of the year

Musky Northern Zone

Harvest

May 25 to Dec. 31

Musky Southern

Zone Harvest

May 4 to Dec. 31

Lake Sturgeon

Sept. 2 to Sept. 30

(hook-and-line)

Free fishing weekends

June 1 and 2

Jan. 18-19, 2025

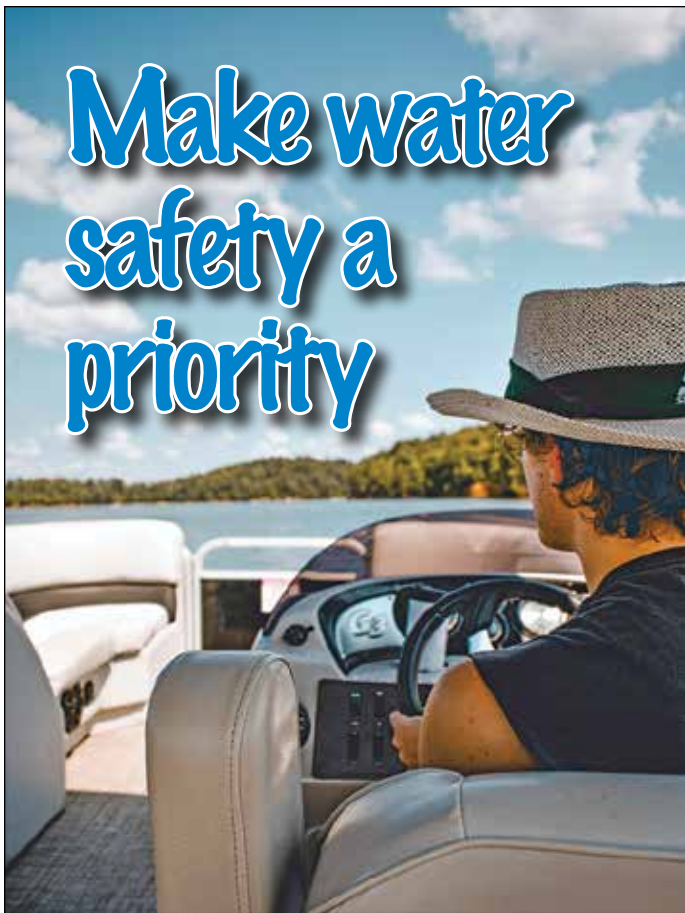
For future reference, free fishing weekends are the first Saturday and Sunday in June and the third Saturday and Sunday in January.

Regarding fishing seasons, note that temporary or emergency rules may be enacted, which could change the season dates for a species or waterbody. If that happens, the DNR advises anglers to look for signs posted at boat landings.

Not all Wisconsin waters follow the general dates for the hook and line or trout season. Anglers must still consult the current regulations' particular county or boundary waters tables to determine if any special season dates exist for the specific waters they plan to fish with hook and line.

For more information, visit drn.wi.gov.

Make water safety a priority



Tips to reduce fatalities caused by electric shock drowning

With summer in full swing, the National Fire Protection Association and Electrical Safety Foundation International are joining forces to remind people about the potential electrical hazards in swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, on board boats and in the waters surrounding boats, marinas and launch ramps.

Electric shock drowning can occur when faulty wiring sends an electrical current into the water, which passes through the body and causes paralysis, and ultimately results in drowning.

"Most consumers, including boat and pool owners and swimmers, are not aware of the risks of electric shock drowning," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "By sharing our water safety resources, NFPA and ESFI

hope to educate people so that they can safely enjoy summer water activities."

ESFI and NFPA have pool and marina safety resources, including tip sheets and infographics, brochures, reference guides and checklists that cover safety devices, common ESD causes and prevention methods, response protocol, and marina electrical safety considerations. ESFI and NFPA also recommend the following tips for swimmers, pool and boat owners:

Tips for swimmers

- Never swim near a marina, dock or boatyard, or near a boat while it's running.
- While in a pool, hot tub or spa, look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker or work intermittently.
- If you feel a tingling sensation while in a pool, immediately stop swimming in your current direction. Try and swim in a direction where you had not felt the tingling. Exit the water as quickly as possible; avoid using metal

ladders or rails. Touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

Tips for pool owners

- If you are putting in a new pool, hot tub or spa, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations.
- Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and – where necessary – replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool, spa or hot tub electrically safe. Have the electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.
- Make sure any overhead lines maintain the proper distance over a pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If you have any doubts, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.

Tips for boat owners

- Avoid entering the water when launching or loading a boat. Docks or boats can leak electricity into the water causing water electrification.
- Each year, and after a major storm, have the boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a qualified marine electrician to be sure it meets the required codes of your area, including the American Boat and Yacht Council. Check with the marina owner who can also tell you if the marina's electrical system has recently been inspected to meet the required codes of your area, including the National Electrical Code.

- Have ground fault circuit interrupters installed on the boat; use only portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL-Marine Listed" when using electricity near water. Test GFCIs monthly.

"Many swimmers, boat and marina operators unknowingly place themselves in danger by swimming near electric-powered boats and docks," said Brett Brenner, ESFI president. "As incidents of electric shock drowning continue to occur every

year, we are collaborating with NFPA to emphasize the importance of regular electrical inspections of pools, boats, and docks performed by qualified electricians to help prevent these tragedies while out on the water."

ESFI has additional spa tips and resources for marina operators on raising awareness of electric shock drowning, as well as steps for keeping marinas and boats safer for patrons.

For information and resources about electric shock drowning, visit www.nfpa.org/watersafety and the ESFI website.

About the Foundation

The Electrical Safety Foundation International is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home and the workplace. ESFI proudly sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May, and engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities. To learn more about ESFI and electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org.

About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

To reduce the risk of drowning from an electric shock, those who spend time in or near the water are reminded not to swim near a marina, dock, boatyard or a running watercraft as all pose risks of an electric current entering the water.

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LICENSES

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

licenses do not include grandchildren ages 16 to 17 years old).

- Military fishing, \$20 – Not available for online purchase.
- Student fishing, \$20 – available to full-time nonresident students in residence at any Wisconsin public or private college or university offering a degree (not available for online purchase).

- Inland Trout Stamp Privilege, \$10 – Required in addition to your 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.

- Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp, \$10 – required in addition to your 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 or nonresident 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. License includes Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamp.

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

Nonresident sturgeon

- Sturgeon Spearing Lake Winnebago (deadline to purchase is Oct. 31), \$65.

- Upriver Lakes Sturgeon Spearing (deadline to purchase is Oct. 31), \$65.

- Sturgeon Hook and Line Inland, \$50 – anglers who intend to harvest a lake sturgeon must purchase this tag first, regardless of age or need for a fishing license. Harvest tags are available for either inland waters or Wisconsin/Michigan boundary waters. A fishing license is required to fish for sturgeon (unless the angler is exempt), but a harvest tag is not required for catch and release.

- Sturgeon Hook and Line Wisconsin and Michigan, \$50.

- Military Inland Sturgeon Hook and Line, \$20.

- Military Wisconsin and Michigan, Sturgeon Hook and Line, \$20.

- Upriver Lakes Sturgeon Spearing Application, \$3 (deadline is Aug. 1).

All annual licenses are valid from date of purchase through March 31, 2025.

Licenses are available for purchase through the DNR's Go Wild website at gowild.wi.gov, sales locations or at one of the DNR Service Centers.

For more information, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov and select "fishing" from the top of the home page.



Here's news that's created a buzz. Three-quarters of the world's flowering plants and food crops rely on pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies to help them reproduce.

Unfortunately, bee populations are being threatened by a range of issues such as colony collapse disorder, pesticides, mites, disease and climate change. Butterfly populations are also at risk.

The good news is that gardeners can help restore balance by creating habitats that encourage pollinators to thrive.

Bees and butterflies need places to live and breed in, and food to eat. The plants that provide this food also need pollinators to help them reproduce, so planting gardens that are friendly to bees and butterflies is a win-win situation.

Pollination occurs naturally as small creatures forage for food, carrying pollen from plant to plant as they go. That is why it's important to offer them a "buffet" of attractive flowers throughout the seasons, and to have sufficient natural habitats so that they don't have to travel far to find what they need.

Here are some easy ways to help:

- Be friendly to bees. Honeybees are not aggressive; they sting only as a defense mechanism.

- Plant trees, shrubs and flowering plants to increase food and shelter for bees and butterflies.

- Create a seasonal buffet for pollinators by planting perennial flowers with a mix

of colors, shapes and scents in containers, window boxes and plant beds.

- Choose perennials with simple, single rather than double flowers to make nectar and pollen more accessible to bees and butterflies.

- Cut and use garden flowers for bouquets to encourage re-blooming and to prolong the foraging window for pollinators.

- Use beautiful native plants such as Echinacea, coreopsis, sunflowers and butterfly milkweed for at least 75 percent of your garden.

- Water, weed and fertilize soil appropriately to create a healthy garden that minimizes pests and diseases.

- Provide clean water for insects in shallow bowls, birdbaths and ponds, or let fresh water drip over stones.

- Imperfection is OK. Bees and butterflies may damage leaves and flowers while breeding and feeding. Create areas of natural habitat with old stumps, fallen branches and tall grass for nesting.

- Help convert small parcels of land into community gardens and green spaces to create closely linked areas for bees and butterflies to visit.

Burpee is one company that offers a wide range of seeds and plants that are attractive to bees and butterflies and their seeds are non-GMO.

To learn more about protecting pollinators, visit www.burpee.com/pollinators or call 800-888-1447.

(NAPS)

Homeowners can easily help bees and butterflies thrive by planting flowers that will serve as natural habitats for the insects in their yards and gardens.

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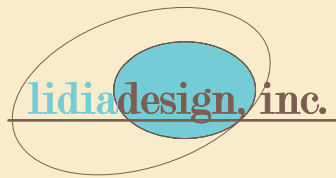
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