

# LAKE *Lifestyles*

THE WAY WE LIVE

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**James Hardie**  
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# Spring is Right Around the Corner



**M**other Nature delivered us a punch of winter weather this year, and now it's time to start thinking about Spring. The days are growing longer, and the promise of renewal, growth, and brighter days are ahead. It's a time for fresh starts and new beginnings, and for many that includes saying "I Do." The Lake has become a prime destination for weddings, and our story on Lake Weddings offers tips and insight into hosting your special day.

The warmer days also reminds us that boating season is almost here. Soon, the docks will come alive, the water will glisten from the rays of the sun, and the thrill of adventure will once again call us to the open waves. Be sure to check out our story on Getting Your Boat and Dock Ready for the Season, as well as the story on the basic boating laws of the Lake. For you thrill seekers, read about Kirby's School of Wake and how he can help improve your performance behind the boat.

If enjoying a cocktail is on your warm weather agenda, you'll love our new feature titled "Ozarks On The Rocks." Our contributor, Jan

Wiley, refers to herself as a "Cocktail Hobbyist." Her original creations are delicious and easy to make. Be sure to check out her cocktail recipes, appetizers, and beautiful photos in all our upcoming issues.

As editor of this publication, I wouldn't be able to do my job without the talents of my contributors. What you may not know is each of them has a unique connection to the Lake of the Ozarks. Be sure to read their individual bio's and learn more about them.

This issue of Lake Lifestyles Magazine is packed with all things Spring. Whether it's fishing, boating, golf, or water sports there's a story waiting to be read. And to warm your heart, be sure to read about the Raising Hope Free Store in Camdenon, and the remarkable things this generous couple is doing for the community.

I hope this season fills you with inspiration and rejuvenation as nature awakens around us. Here's to the beauty of spring, just on the horizon.

*Marie Kedziorowski*  
marie.lakelife@gmail.com

# LAKE Lifestyles THE WAY WE LIVE

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# Let's Connect

## Say hello!

Lake Lifestyles magazine wants to know what you really think! Send your comments, questions and story ideas to [marie.lakelife@gmail.com](mailto:marie.lakelife@gmail.com) or send snail mail to 4075 Osage Beach Parkway, Ste. 100, Osage Beach, MO 65065.



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# Contributors

FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL 2025

Lake Lifestyles Magazine is your source for feature stories, events, and information about what's happening around the Lake. Our contributing staff is comprised of writers and photographers who live the Lake life. Through personal and professional experiences, they each have their own unique and special understanding of what it's like to be a member of this wonderful community.

## ***We are the Lake of the Ozarks.***



### **Vicki Wood**

Vicki Wood is a freelance journalist for Lake Sun and Lake Lifestyles Magazine. Moving to Lake of the Ozarks in 1986, her first memory of Osage Beach was crossing the Grand Glaize Bridge and noticing how dark blue the water was back then. Hillbilly Town and the Bagnell Dam Strip were the first attractions introduced on arrival to the lake area. Settling in nearby Eldon, Vicki Wood graduated from Eldon High School. She has lifetime of creative writing experience and enjoys traveling the area and getting to know Missouri. She owns a cabin on the Gravois Arm and enjoys writing in solitude while looking out over the waves.



### **Doug Beck**

Doug Beck and his family came to the Lake Area in 2002 as a part-timer, then a full time resident in 2003. He owned and operated LOZ Environmental and retired in 2010. When he retired, Doug coached the Ozark Trap Club where he taught trap shooting to youth. Doug is actively involved in water and boating safety. He is co-chair of the Water Safety Council and President of the Captains Association of Missouri. He is also an active member of the Kiwanis of the Ozark Coast, serving the youth and other non-profit organizations. Doug is a member of Faithbridge United Methodist Church and helped develop the mobile food pantry, working with Share the Harvest food pantry that serves families in Stoutland.



### **John Neporadny**

John Neporadny began fishing the Lake of the Ozarks in the 1970s, and moved to the Lake area in 1982. He was a part-time guide at the Lake for five years and has competed in bass and crappie tournaments on his home waters for more than 30 years. The University of Missouri School of Journalism graduate left a newspaper editor position in 1993 to become a full-time free-lance writer, specializing in freshwater fishing. In addition to his articles published in national and regional outdoor publications, the Lake Ozark resident has written two books: "THE Lake of the Ozarks Fishing Guide" and "101 Bass Fishing Tips, Twenty-First Century Bassing Tactics and Techniques from All the Top Pros." Neporadny also writes the Lake of the Ozarks weekly fishing report for The Lake Sun Newspaper and Vacation News.



## Judy Goppert

Judy Goppert has been enjoying Lake life for close to 40 years, working, playing, and diving in. Her family owned a home on the Lake for many years, and she skied, swam and floated to her heart's content from an early age. She and her husband have enjoyed vacationing and living aboard their cruiser for over a decade, and now continue to boat around the water, exploring coves, restaurants, marinas, and sights. She began her career as radio jingle writer, the upon graduation from Missouri State University with a degree in writing worked as a copywriter for advertising agencies. A number of other writing accomplishments fill her resume. She has an eye for discovering interesting people and places to feature in her stories for Lake Lifestyles Magazine in addition to the Lake Sun Newspaper and Vacation News.



## George Denny

George Denny has been a full-time resident of the Lake area since the 1960's. A graduate from the School of the Osage, he was a member of the year book committee where he did photography. He worked for Galva-Foam Dock Company for 20 years as a scuba diver. George began working with the Vacation News publication in 1979, and was a photographer and performer for the Lake Water Show in the 1980's. An exciting accomplishment for George is that he has been able to attend every single Shootout event, and is in the Inaugural Shootout Hall of Fame. He is an accomplished photographer and shoots for the Lake Sun Newspaper, Vacation News, and Lake Lifestyles Magazine. Being at the Lake, photographing events, and capturing the history is rewarding to him.



## Brad Glidewell

In 2013, Brad Glidewell made the Lake of the Ozarks his permanent home as his photography business blossomed into a full-time career through Brad Glidewell Photography. Capturing the unique beauty of lake life, Brad cherishes the lake community's close-knit spirit. What started as a side venture soon grew into a full-time career for Brad and his wife. Brad feels honored to work against the breathtaking backdrop of the Lake's landscapes and vibrant sunsets, capturing the lifestyle that makes this place so unique. Turning moments into lasting memories at the Lake is a dream come true for him. He loves how the Lake community comes together, creating an atmosphere where life is always good. When he's not behind the camera, he enjoys boating, local concerts, and family time.



## Paul Leahy

Paul has been a Lake of the Ozarks resident since 1989. He has been the Director of Golf at the Oaks Golf Course at Margaritaville Lake Resort since 2001. Paul fell in love with lake life early on and started and raised his family here. He states the Lake is a special place and when friends ask why he has never pursued opportunities outside the area, all he has to do is take them on a boat ride and say "why would I leave this." Paul has been involved with the Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Lake of the Ozarks Junior Golf Association and Scholarship committee, and has been the President of the Lake of the Ozarks Golf Council for over 20 years. The golf council has promoted the Lake area and its golf courses for over 35 years, and has been instrumental in making the Lake of the Ozarks the premiere golf destination it is today. Paul loves playing and teaching the game of golf, boating, watching sporting events live and on television, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. Paul has been a contributing writer in the golf section of Lake Lifestyles Magazine since 2007.

# LAKE OF THE OZARKS GUIDE TO SPRING FISHING

Story and Photos by JOHN NEPORADNY JR.



Limits of keeper-size crappie can be caught from February through April at the Lake of the Ozarks

**R**ated as one of the nation's most popular vacation spots, Lake of the Ozarks also has a reputation of being one of the best fishing lakes in the country.

The 54,000-acre reservoir annually makes Bassmaster Magazine's 100 Best Bass Lakes list and is a popular stop for national crappie tournament circuits. From February to April, the lake draws numerous bass tournaments ranging from national and regional events to club derbies.

The lake contains plenty of fish-attracting cover and structure such as boat docks, planted brush piles, steep bluffs, creek channels, humps, and points for tournament and recreational anglers to target.

The various arms of the lake offer diverse water clarity and structure so anglers can catch fish with a wide range of tactics. The Osage arm runs 98 miles from Bagnell Dam to Truman Dam and changes in appearance from one end to the other. The lower end contains some of the deepest and clearest water on the lake, while the upper Osage near Warsaw narrows until it turns riverine in appearance with the water remaining stained to murky most of the time. The Niangua and Little Niangua tributaries combine to form the winding Niangua arm that resembles a large river more than a reservoir since it has few major coves and a narrow main channel for most of its length.

The Gravois and Little Gravois creeks form the clear waters of the Gravois arm that flows 10 miles down to the lower Osage. The Grand Glaize arm runs about 16 miles from its confluence with the Osage arm to the swinging bridges area where the Glaize narrows down to a stream.

Several marinas and resorts rent boats to visiting anglers who don't own one and want to venture out on the water. Public launch ramps are available at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Grand Glaize Recreation Area (Public Beach #2 and Pa He Tsi), Lake of the Ozarks State Park Public Beach #1, and McCubbins Point and Missouri Department of Conservation access areas at Coffman Beach, Shawnee Bend, Brown Bend, Gravois Mills, Larry R. Gale, and Wigwam School. Public ramps are also available at Bledsoe Ferry, Drake Harbor, and Lay Park at Warsaw.

The lake is loaded with keeper-size bass thanks to the Missouri Department of Conservation's 15-inch minimum length regulation on black bass. February and March are prime months for catching heavyweight bass because the fish start moving shallow during the prespawn. The best tactics for catching lunker bass is twitching a suspending stickbait or pitching a jig along 45-degree rocky banks. Running an Alabama rig adorned with swimbaits over the tops of brush piles 15 to 25 feet deep is also a productive method for catching heavyweight bass throughout late winter and early spring.

As the water warms in April, bass migrate to pea gravel banks to spawn in the shallows. The biggest bass tend to build nests in hard-to-reach spots such as behind the cables of boat docks. A variety of lures, including jigs, Texas-rigged soft plastic lizards and craws, finesse worms, stickworms, and topwater lures will coax nesting bass into biting.

The Missouri Department of Conservation's 9-inch minimum length limit on crappie has helped keep crappie fishing consistently good. Massive schools of crappie suspend over deep water at the mouths of coves and creeks throughout February and can be tricked with jigs presented with either vertical or horizontal presentations. Limits of keeper-size black and white crappie can be taken in the shallows on jigs and minnows throughout March and April. Crappie usually spawn in April along pea gravel pockets in a depth range of one to eight feet depending on the water clarity.

---

### **The Missouri State Highway Patrol Water Patrol Division 2025 regatta listings for Lake of the Ozarks includes the following February bass tournaments with fields of more than 50 boats:**

Midwest Outdoor Experience, Feb. 1

Grand Glaize Recreation Area Public Beach #2 (PB#2) access; Show Me Tournaments LLC, Feb. 1-2

PB#2; BassingBob.com, Feb. 8, launch anywhere and weigh-in at PB#2

Alhonna Resort Winter Bass Brawl, Feb. 15-16 at Alhonna Resort

True Impact Outdoors, Feb. 22 at Coffman Beach

Pure Fishing Team Trail, Feb. 22 at Shawnee Bend

Livin2Fish, Buddy Bass Tournament, Feb. 23 at Shawnee Bend

Major League Fishing (MLF) Toyota Series, Feb. 27-March 1 at PB#2

### **March bass tournaments with 50 boats or larger fields on the regatta listings include:**

The Alhonna Resort Winter Bass Brawl, March 1-2, at Alhonna Resort

Show Me Tournaments LLC, March 1-2 at Robins Resort

Midwest Outdoor Experience, March 1 at Coffman Beach

Anglers in Action, March 8 at PB#2

Just Fish Team Trail, March 9 at PB#2

MoYak Fishing Series, March 15, Launch and finish anywhere

Ozark Mountain Team Trail, March 15 at PB#2

MOBass Fishin' Solo Pro Series, March 16 at PB#2

Solo Series Top 100, March 16 at PB#2

MCASSTT, March 22 at PB#2



Lake of the Ozarks anglers can trick bass with a variety of lures throughout the spring.

Show Me Tournaments LLC, March 23 at PB#2

Major League Fishing, March 29 at PB#2

Missouri B.A.S.S. Nation Youth and High School, March 30 at Shawnee Bend.

### **The regatta list for the Lake's larger field bass tournaments for April includes:**

The Creator Classic, April 5 at Alhonna Resort

National Youth Fishing Association, April 5-6, launch anywhere and weigh-in at PB#2

Show Me Tournaments LLC, April 5-6 at PB#2

Big Bass Bash, April 12-13, weigh-ins at PB#2/ Red Oak/ Alhonna/Point Randall/Ivy Bend

St. Louis Bass Busters Open Buddy tournament, April 19 at PB#2

Carpenters' Buddy Bass Tournament, April 26 at PB#2

Anglers in Action, April 27 at PB#2.

Story by JOHN NEPORADNY JR.

Photos from websites

# FISHING BOATS:

## Finding the Right One for the Lake of the Ozarks



The G3 Sportsman 2400 features a large aerated rear live well for Lake of the Ozarks catfish anglers to hold their trophy catch.

**T**op performance, size, and a comfortable ride are keys to choosing a quality fishing boat for the Lake of the Ozarks.

Fully rigged bass boats with all the latest bells and whistles have become the standard fishing crafts for the lake. These types of vessels can still run into trouble, though, if the boats lack the durability and size to handle the lake's rough waters created by heavy boat traffic.

The longer the fishing boat the better for the Lake of the Ozarks, so the most popular selling bass boats at the lake are at least 20 feet in length. A 19-foot bass boat can handle the lake's turbulent water sometimes, but a 20-foot boat or longer is recommended for the roughest water periods on the weekends.

Picking the right horsepower outboard motor for a bass boat is simple. Every bass boat has a maximum horsepower rating recommended by the Coast Guard, so the boat you buy should be powered to the max.

Lake of the Ozarks anglers can be typically classified into three categories: hard core tournament competitors, recreational weekend anglers, and pan-fish enthusiasts. All three types of anglers seem to prefer fully rigged fiberglass or aluminum bass boats to fish for a variety of species at the lake.

Three local marine dealers that sell fully rigged fiberglass or aluminum bass boats for the lake are Performance Advantage Marine in Sunrise Beach, Sport World Boat Center in Sunrise Beach, and Surdyke Yamaha & Marina in Osage Beach.

Performance Advantage Marine General Manager Cody Henick considers the iKon Legend Series LX21 bass boat the dealership's most popular selling fishing boat for the lake. The LX21 model is a 21-foot, 10-inch fiberglass boat with a 98-inch beam. The boat is powered by a Mercury 250 HP Pro XS engine with a fuel capacity of 50 gallons.

The iKon's hull design allows the boat to handle hard turns and rough waters without disruption to speed, and provides ample space on the front deck for storage and maneuverability. "The boat is actually wider in the front allowing anglers to move around more and keep more rods up front," Henick says.

The boat's standard features include a 35 gallon live well and large insulated cooler. "Through iKon we can pretty much customize the boat for any person to what they want to be using whether it is Garmin or Humminbird (electronics) pretty much across the board," Henick says. "If you want to customize the boat you can do everything from electronics (and trolling motors), down to the colors of the boat, down to even the stitching on the seats."

A fully equipped Vexus VXs20 bass boat provides high performance and a comfortable ride for fishing the lake.





Sport World Boat Center sells both fiberglass and aluminum Vexus bass boats. The most popular selling fiberglass Vexus at the lake is the VXs20 model, according to the dealership's owner Gary Burris. The VXs20 features a 20-foot, 6-inch deep v-hull with a 97-inch beam. Powered by a Mercury 250 HP V8 engine, the boat has a fuel capacity of 54 gallons.

Standard features for the VXs20 include a four-bank battery charger, AirWave Suspension bucket seats, 22 gallon oxygenated live well with a pump out system, tandem axle trailer, and custom cover. The boat also features the angler's choice of Garmin trolling motors and Garmin electronics.

Sport World's best-selling aluminum bass boat is the Vexus AVX2080, a 20-foot, 2-inch model with a 95-inch beam and an all-welded high-performance pad hull. The boat is powered by a Mercury Pro XS 200 HP motor and has a fuel capacity of 35 gallons. Burris suggests the fully rigged AVX2080 with its Garmin trolling motor and Garmin electronics is a tournament bass boat and claims it rides better in rough water than other 20 and 21-foot fiberglass bass boats.

Surdyke Yamaha Sales Associate Dennis Phelps considers the G3 Boats Sportsman 2400 and G3

Boats Angler V21F as the dealership's most popular selling aluminum fishing boats for the lake.

The Sportsman 2400 is a 23-foot, 11-inch boat with a 95-inch beam powered by a Yamaha VF 250 HP engine. The boat has a 50 gallon fuel capacity and features aerated front and rear live wells, a walk-through windshield, and three-bank battery charger. "It is more lined up as a catfish-type boat with a huge live well in it," Phelps says. Options include a variety of MinnKota trolling motors and Humminbird electronics.

The Angler V21F is a 21-foot, 2-inch craft with a 96-inch beam and a 40 gallon fuel capacity. "It is more of a universal type fishing boat," Phelps said. He suggests the V21F also serves well as a "family boat" for skiing and tubing. Powered by a Yamaha VF 250 HP motor, the V21F can also be equipped with various MinnKota trolling motors and Humminbird electronics. Standard features include two aerated live wells, three-bank battery charger, and stereo with two speakers.

A fully rigged aluminum or fiberglass fishing boat with plenty of performance and durability are a necessity for anglers whether they make short or long runs on the vast 54,000 acres of Lake of the Ozarks.

The iKonLX21 bass boat has a spacious front deck offering plenty of room for Lake of the Ozarks anglers to move around and store their rods.



# Destination Mexico!

Story by PAUL LEAHY  
Photos Submitted

The VidantaWorld Nuevo Vallarta resort offers amenities that make it a desirable golf and vacation destination.

If you're looking for a great Mexican destination with spectacular golf, accommodations, sand, and surf then look no further than the Vidanta destination resort where six locations await you. Take your pick from the Riviera Maya, Los Lobos, Acapulco, Puerto Penasco, Puerto Vallarta, or Nuevo Nayarit-Vallarta. I have been to Nuevo Nayarit-Vallarta, so let's take a look at this awesome resort and start planning your getaway today.

The resort has been recognized as one of the top destinations in Mexico and is known for providing a high-end resort experience. The endless restaurants and lounges, a shopping plaza, an entertainment plaza, two spas, countless pools, and a beach inside the property will have you never wanting to leave the grounds. Oh, did I mention the two premier golf courses in addition to a 10-hole par-3 course, the Vidanta Golf Academy, and the Par Tee Zone at their driving range. This property is home to the largest golf cart suspension bridge in the world.



The resort has been recognized as one of the top destinations in Mexico for providing a high-end resort experience.

The newest and most talked about course is the Greg Norman signature layout Vidanta Vallarta, which is the host site of the PGA Tours Mexican Open. Playing as a par-73 with a length of 7,287 yards, this gem is challenging, beautiful, and a must play. The layout winds along the Ameca River and provides scenic views of the Sierra Madre Mountains from every hole. With 55 bunkers, six lakes, and wall to wall Paspalum grass this is a layout you will not forget. This spectacular layout offers a short game area, putting green, lighted driving range, valet parking, and caddies to make this a once in a lifetime golf experience.

The Nayar Course is a 6,668 yard par-70 layout surrounded by lush jungle and the Sierra Madre Mountains on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. It features all the amenities as the Norman Signature course including caddy service. Bermuda fairways and greens highlight this player friendly course which is fun and challenging for all caliber of players.



This resort property is home to the largest golf cart suspension bridge in the world.

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Located on the pacific coast, this resort is a popular destination for tourists from the United States, Canada, a United Kingdom.

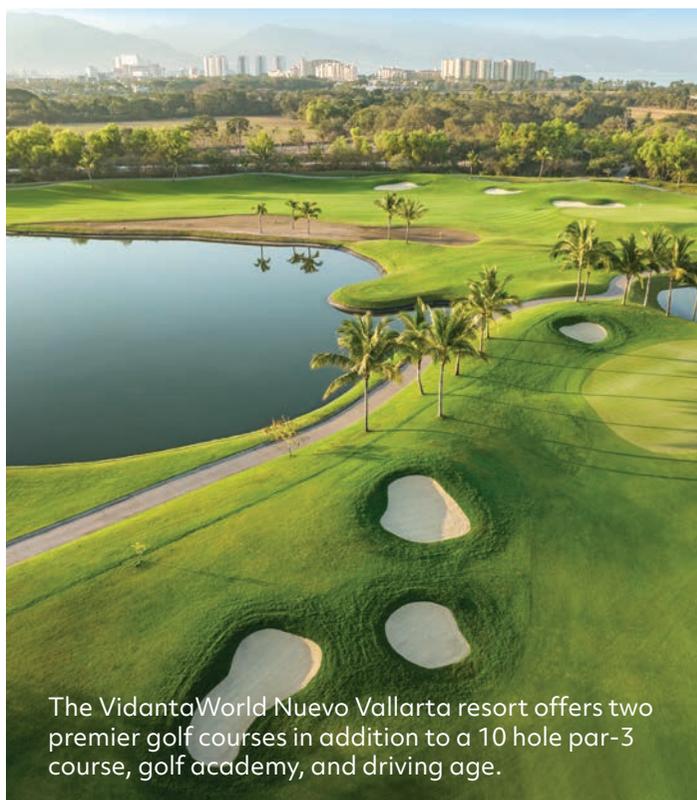
The Lakes 10 hole par-3 course is located in the heart of the resort. The only lighted course in the area showcases great views of the resort's landmarks including the Sanuario and the Grand Luxxe towers. This walkable gem is perfect for an evening game to relax and unwind.

The Par Tee Zone uses the latest in range technology for a fun, challenging experience for the whole family. Detailed shot analysis, challenging virtual games, and an advanced radar ball-tracking system will make this range experience memorable. You can also play virtually any golf course while dining on gourmet snacks and drinks.

If you are just learning the game or trying to fine tune your game, the golf professionals at the Vidanta Golf Academy can help. With two state of the art training studios, a lit driving range, custom club fitting, computerized putting analysis, and a 1021 point pressure balance mat to measure your stability, this academy can help anyone improve their score.

Nuevo Nayarit is located on the pacific coast of Mexico and is about a 15 minute drive north of Puerto Vallarta's International airport. It is a popular destination for tourists from the United States, Canada, and the UK. The golden sand beaches of Banderas Bay, taking an ATV tour of the Sierra Madre jungle, and swimming with dolphins are just a few of the exciting adventures you can experience while there.

To learn more about this great destination, visit <https://www.vidanta.com/>.



The VidantaWorld Nuevo Vallarta resort offers two premier golf courses in addition to a 10 hole par-3 course, golf academy, and driving age.

# FEBRUARY-APRIL LAKE AREA GOLF TOURNAMENTS

*Compiled by* PAUL LEAHY  
*Photos from* METRO CREATIVE SERVICES



**Saturday, March 15, 2025**  
**Rolling Hills Country Club**  
2-Person Shamble Tournament  
[www.rollinghillsozark.com/events/upcomingevents](http://www.rollinghillsozark.com/events/upcomingevents)

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**  
**Rolling Hills Country Club**  
Morgan County RII Project Graduation  
[www.rollinghillsozark.com/events/upcomingevents](http://www.rollinghillsozark.com/events/upcomingevents)

**Saturday & Sunday, March 15-16, 2025**  
**Osage National Golf Resort**  
St. Patty's Day Open  
[www.osagenational.com](http://www.osagenational.com)

**Saturday and Sunday April 12-13, 2025**  
**Lake Valley Golf Club**  
Spring 2 Person Scramble  
[www.lakevalleygolf.com/Tournaments](http://www.lakevalleygolf.com/Tournaments)

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**  
**Lake Valley Golf Club**  
Arse Backwards 2 Person Scramble  
(Play the golf course backwards)  
[www.lakevalleygolf.com/Tournaments](http://www.lakevalleygolf.com/Tournaments)

**Sunday, April 27, 2025**  
**Osage National Golf Resort**  
The Clown Golf Classic Benefitting  
The Dream Factory  
[www.osagenational.com](http://www.osagenational.com)

**Saturday and Sunday April 5-6, 2025**  
**The Oaks Golf Club at Margaritaville Lake Resort**  
Spring Parrot Head Open 2 Person Scramble  
[www.margaritavilleresortlakeoftheozarks.com](http://www.margaritavilleresortlakeoftheozarks.com)

**Saturday, May 3, 2025**  
**Rolling Hills Country Club**  
Kick-Off-Classic 1-Person Scramble  
[www.rollinghillsozark.com/events/upcomingevents](http://www.rollinghillsozark.com/events/upcomingevents)

Story by PAUL LEAHY

# OSAGE NATIONAL GOLF RESORT: RENOVATIONS WILL ENHANCE PLAY



FACEBOOK PHOTO

The Osage National Golf Resort has been a fixture at the Lake of the Ozarks since 1992.

Since 1992 the Osage National Golf Resort has been a fixture of the golf landscape at the Lake of the Ozarks. Like many golf courses and real estate ventures, Osage has been through its share of ownership changes and trying times. Since 2016 Osage has been owned and operated by Great Life Golf which is headquartered in Harrisburg, PA and has satellite offices in Kansas City. They manage over 50 golf courses nationally, and have brought stability and a forward thinking approach to Osage and all the facilities they manage. Now they are set to invest in the future of Osage with an expansive renovation project that began this past October as the River course was closed for a makeover.

The three-year master plan to overhaul the three nines at the resort has begun. Crews led by architect Todd Clark, who owns and operates CE Golf Design out of Kansas, and Osage Golf Course superintendent Jeff Sommerer started the renovation process. In October the River nine was shut down for play and an excess of one million dollars will be spent on the River Course renovations.

Every bunker on the River nine was renovated in some

respect from moving, reshaping, removing, or redesigning it. New player premier white sand was also added. Let's take a closer look at each hole and see what you can expect this spring.

A new bunker was added left of the green on hole 1 where there was a grass bunker. The bunkers left of the green on hole number 2 were reshaped and made slightly smaller. On hole three, the cart path was rerouted slightly and a directional fairway bunker was added on the right side of the fairway for a visually appealing aiming point off the tee.

The par three hole number 4 received a complete redesign with the green being completely redone. It has been flattened and widened, and the area behind the green has been built up so it will no longer be a disaster to hit it long into the swale. Brush and debris have been removed from the creek fronting the green and rock rip raff rock has been added for a visually stunning approach. The par five hole number 5 saw a vast amount of tree removal by the tee box and down the river side of the hole and the cart path has been rerouted behind the tee box. With the trees gone the back tee is now a viable option to utilize.

Hole six got a major facelift as the tee has been expanded to lengthen the hole and the fairway cart path has been re-routed to the left. All of the trees along the right side of the hole and on the island have been removed making the water very visible, and allowing for the tees to be varied to allow for a drivable risk reward hole if they choose. Hole seven saw a bunker added to the right greenside approach, and brush has been cleared along the river allowing for better views of the river itself.

On hole eight the waste bunker on the left has been eliminated and three new smaller bunkers line the left side of the fairway. The trees right and behind the green have been cleared and a magnificent view from the fairway has been created as you can see for miles down the channel of the river. On hole nine, you will notice the island tee has been eliminated and the cart path has been re-routed down the right side. Two new tee boxes have been added by the cart path for the forward tees and the large bunker left of the green has been reshaped and made smaller.

General Manger Ryan Manselle explained “the renovations were made for ease of maintenance, playability, visually better, and to address several drainage issues that have arisen over time. The changes have been approved by the Palmer design team, so it will not impact the signature Arnold Palmer design stamp that the course holds.” The River Course is scheduled to open mid to late April 2025.

Moving forward, the Links and the Mountain nines will also get a facelift beginning in the fall of 2025 and will continue through the spring 2027. The current plan is to have all 27 holes open Mid-April through Mid-October during the renovations, with it all being completed by May of 2027. All of the bunkers on the Mountain and Links nines will be reworked during the renovations to mirror the changes that have already been completed to the River nine. Other changes to the individual holes are still in the planning phases, with details of those being announced as the fall of 2025 gets closer.

I personally can't wait for spring so I can see and play the new changes. Osage has always been a favorite of mine and I can't wait to see what the future holds. Osage is in great hands and is looking forward to its future as one of the premier golf facilities in the entire Mid-West.



Hole number 4 offers a complete green redo and new rip raft for the creek.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY OSAGE NATIONAL GOLF CLUB



Tree removal created a beautiful view down the river for hole number 8.



A bunker redo near the green has been completed at hole number 9.

Story by JUDY GOPPERT

# ROAD TRIP TIME!

## SURROUNDING LOCALES TO PLEASE YOUR SENSES

**W**hether you want to get away for a weekend or just a day, point your GPS toward a new restaurant, town or museum, and expand your love of this widespread Lake area. Located within a few hours drive from the hub of the Lake of the Ozarks, these towns offer fun, food, and festivity for those of all ages.



Downtown Versailles Olde Tyme Apple Festival.

### Versailles

Named after the town in France, Versailles serves as the gateway to one of the most defining natural landmarks in the area, the Lake of the Ozarks. Country Living has ranked Versailles, a town that hosts just about 2,800 residents, among the 40 best small towns in America.

For the history enthusiast, the Morgan County Historical Society Museum is located in the old Martin Hotel in downtown Versailles. The museum is on the National Register of Historic Sites in Washington, D.C.

While the best time to enjoy the spirit of Versailles is when it stages the annual fall Olde Tyme Apple Festival, Versailles offers visitors several other fun-filled attractions as well. These include Jacob's Cave, the largest cave in the area, which first-time visitors often find overtly surreal. Versailles also plays host to Weaver's Country Market, one of the oldest Mennonite-owned businesses in Missouri and a carryover of the town's rich Mennonite legacy.

Annual events include an open air market held from April through October, the annual Fourth of July fireworks extravaganza, and The Versailles Saddle and Sirloin Club's annual rodeo in July.

## Cole Camp

Katie Blake, PR Specialist, Missouri Division of Tourism, shared some ideas:

Cole Camp is a historic town located where the Ozarks meets the great prairies in Benton County, Missouri. It is dated from its first post office in 1839, and it was the site of one of the first land battles of the Civil War. The town boasts several buildings dating from pre-Civil War times, and the downtown is on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, many residents still speak the Low German language brought over by their ancestors. There are many antique shops, and The German Table Restaurant is a must visit.

Known as the “Festival City” many festivals and special events keep the town a busy place. The area’s Oktoberfest features German food, beer, music and vendors. There are other engaging German events, including Christkindlmarket, Saengerfest, Christbaumfest, and a German Christmas Concert.

It’s an idealistic location with rolling prairies to the north and hills and streams to the south, offering beauty and variety. Hunting and fishing are popular sports in this area. Older homes and farmsteads dot the countryside, recalling years past. Likewise, the rich soil of the prairie and creek bottoms provide for excellent farming with fields of tall corn, soybeans, and wheat being common sights. The production of beef completes the agricultural picture of the area. Not surprisingly, it is a prosperous area for both farmers and businesses.

Cole Camp is also part of the Missouri Civil War Passport Program because of its historical attributes. Be sure and visit Cole Camp and learn more about the Cole Camp Massacre that took place in 1861.

*(Lynette M. Stokes, Executive Director, Benton County Tourism & Recreation graciously contributed to this section.)*



# Rocheport

Rocheport stands out because it has managed to keep the same calm, peaceful presence and small-town charm since its founding in 1825. Some of the many things that make Rocheport special are the wide variety of places, activities, and events offered. It's easy to feel like you've stepped back in time and get lost in the moment when appreciating the gorgeous surroundings of the Katy Trail, sipping savory wines, or enjoying the amazing artwork and live music that embodies what Rocheport is all about. Whether it's for a leisurely weekend escape or a quick day trip, Rocheport has a lot to offer. Park the car, because you won't need it to start exploring the wonderful restaurants and unique shops as you walk this town. Discover the pleasure of charming inns, each unique and offering a wonderful variety of breakfast cuisine, gorgeous views, and amenities galore.

Southern Gent Candles & Candle Bar is a great stop to make in historic downtown Rocheport. Their candles are hand-poured in small batches in this 100 year-old building. They opened a retail shop, Southern Provisions, in November of 2021 for your shopping pleasure.

There are a variety of places to stay if an extended visit is your plan. The Katy Trail B&B, Rocheport Honey House, School House B&B, and The Bluff House are a few. Unique locales, such as the Katy Boxcar, are also available. This self-contained boxcar has its own private entrance and is steps from the Katy Trail. Park your bike, or rent one, and enjoy tiny home living at its finest.

End your day with wine and food in the unique atmosphere of Les Bourgeois Bistro and Vineyards, overlooking the majestic Missouri River.



The Rocheport General Store and Cafe.



On the Katy Trail in Rocheport.



# Lincoln

Nestled just off Highway 65 and within 10 minutes of Truman Lake and the Osage Arm of the Lake of the Ozarks, Lincoln is a charming town that promises fun and memorable experiences for the entire family year round.

One of Lincoln's unique claims to fame is the Mozarkite, a beautiful rock native to the area that is often referred to as "the rock of Missouri." This distinctive stone is not only a geological marvel but also serves as a symbol of the town's rich natural heritage. Visitors can find Mozarkite in various shops and galleries throughout Lincoln, making it a fantastic souvenir to remember your visit.

Throughout the year, Lincoln hosts a variety of family-friendly events, including seasonal festivals, craft fairs, and community gatherings. These events foster a sense of belonging and make Lincoln a lively place where memories are created, and friendships are forged.

The annual Lincoln Fall Festival includes a hot air balloon glow, fall market, live music, beer garden, petting zoo, pony rides, corn-hole tournament, and the strongman/woman competition.

Wenig's Gunstock Factory offers a fascinating look into the art of gunstock manufacturing, while Anne's Acres is great for picking your own produce in-season. Drennon Ranch is a rodeo enthusiast's dream, and be sure to stop in Estes Drive-In!

## Warsaw

Perched on the Osage Arm of the expansive Truman Lake, Warsaw is a charming town that radiates the spirit of the great outdoors. The majestic Harry S. Truman Dam is a marvel of engineering that plays a crucial role in managing the area's water resources. Explore the Harry S. Truman Visitor Center, where engaging exhibits and scenic overlooks provide insights into the dam's history and significant contributions to flood control and electricity generation.

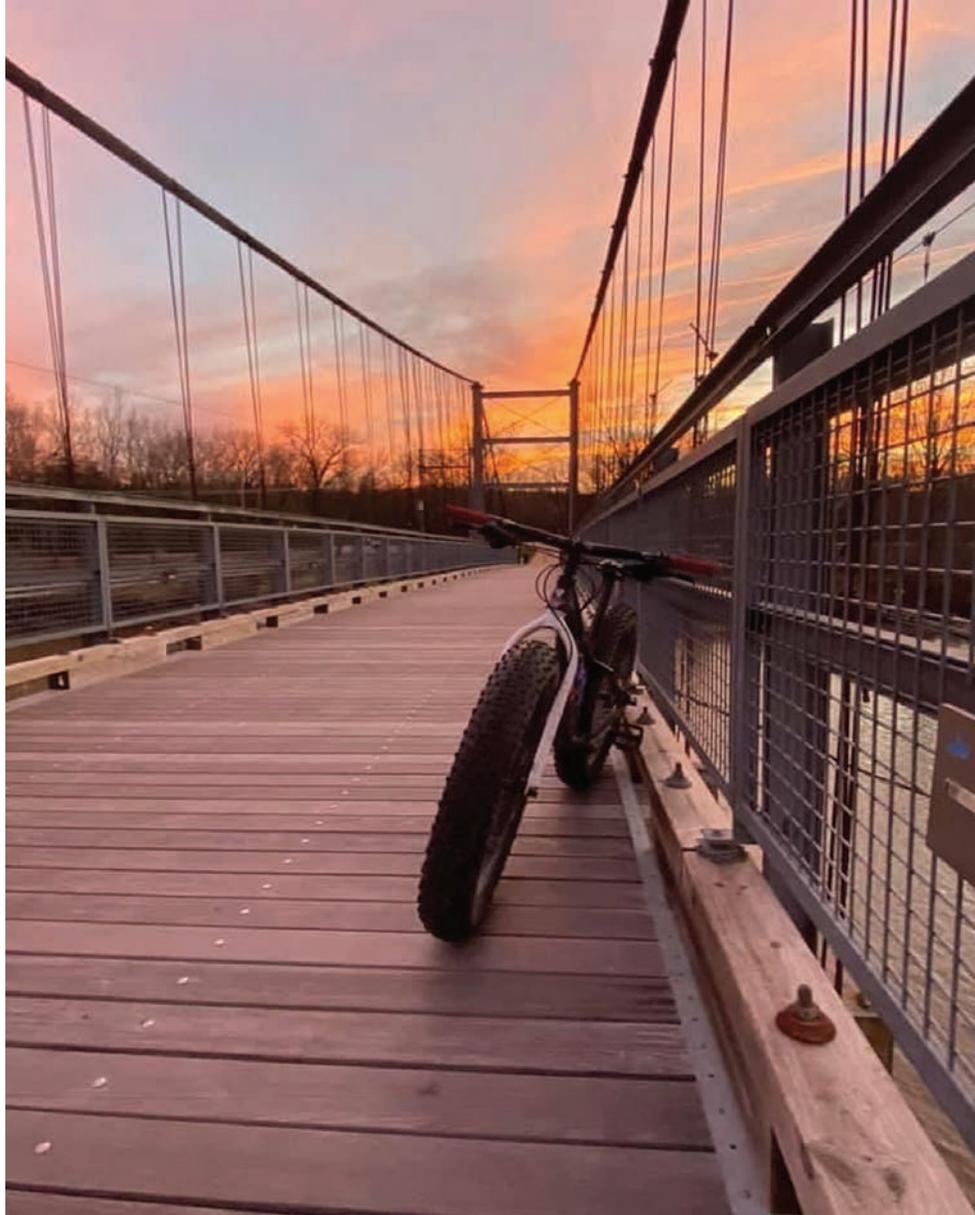
There are miles of walking trails that allow you to take in the scenery of the area and the expansive Truman Lake. Boating, kayaking, and jet skiing are just a few of the exciting options available, while Truman State Park showcases the natural beauty of the region while providing additional outdoor recreational opportunities.

The Joe Dice Swinging Bridge, an iconic landmark spanning the picturesque Osage River, captures the essence of adventure and local history. The Benton County Museum, located just off Commercial Street, is a captivating destination that showcases the rich history and heritage of the region. The museum offers a diverse collection of artifacts, photographs, and exhibits that chronicle the stories of the local community, from its early pioneers to modern times.

Drake Harbor can be found along the serene banks of the Osage River. This features the charming Steamboat Landing, a ten-foot wide by approximately 1,000-foot-long boardwalk, which is part of the ever-growing network of waterfront trails that can be found around the area. Recently enhanced by the addition of a new steamboat-themed playground complete with climbing structures resembling historic vessels, the site now offers an exciting and imaginative space for children to explore and play. Families can enjoy the stunning waterfront views, picnic areas, and walking trails. Activities like fishing, boating, and kayaking are also available. The combination of historical significance and modern amenities makes Drake Harbor and Steamboat Landing a cherished destination for visitors and locals alike, inviting them to create lasting memories in this scenic riverside setting.

After a day filled with adventure, visitors can indulge in several unique dining options available in Warsaw. Cozy cafes and family-owned restaurants serve up delicious local fare, from classic comfort food to hearty BBQ, ensuring that every palate is satisfied.

**Let this information inspire you to get "on the road again" and take a day trip or weekend getaway to one or all these unique destinations. Happy exploring!**



Swinging Bridge and Drake Harbor in Warsaw.



# HELLO BOATING SEASON!

## TIPS TO GET YOUR BOAT AND DOCK READY TO USE

PHOTOS: SUBMITTED

Relax and stay worry free knowing your boat has been inspected prior to hitting the water.

Story by JUDY GOPPERT



A quad engine center console receives its 100-hour service to ensure it's ready for the water.

Now that the worst part of the cold season is over, many of us are counting down the days until we take that first boat ride of the season. As we pack away our cold weather gear and welcome warmer Lake days, it is a good idea to take time to check that your boat and dock fared well through the freezing temps. A few area experts gave their advice on how to assure everything is in working order and ready for the season ahead.

We queried some experts here at the Lake and they shared their knowledge about tips to physically prepare your boat and dock for the upcoming season. Myrick Coil, Shop Foreman at Performance Boat Center and award-winning Super Cat racer, has driven in World Class races worldwide. He has won numerous awards with Performance and Dave Scott, and also Anheuser Busch.

He came to the Lake to get into the boat repair business and embraces all things boats. His boat to-do list includes making sure to have a trained professional de-winterize your boat and inspect the boat for the start of the season.

“The things they should be looking for include checking all fluids and adding fluids if needed, and visually inspecting bilges and all mechanical parts such as belts, hoses, and large cables to insure they are not loose or corroded,” he explained. “The boat needs to be dropped in the water at this time, and I like to have the boat floating on its own and not sitting on a lift or trailer. I then visually inspect it for any additional water leaks. If no leaks are noticed, the boat can then be started. Once the boat is started, I quickly look at the gauges to make sure the oil pressure has come up, and immediately following that I look for water pressure.”

Coil recommends if the boat does not have water pressure gauges, look at the exhaust of a stern drive boat to make sure water is coming out. If it's an outboard, make sure it's coming out of the tattletale hose. Most outboard motors, he explained, do have a water pressure gauge. Once you have verified that the oil pressure has risen and the water system is pumping water, he then lets the boat idle until it achieves and maintains running temperature.

"At this point if all systems are within desired parameters and there are no alarms, it would be safe to say you are ready for your maiden voyage of the season," he added. "A lot of the maintenance that is required on boats usually is scheduled in the fall, ensuring that way they are ready when spring comes."

One of the main reasons he and his team prefer to do maintenance in the fall is so they can check that the outdrive/lower unit does not have any water intrusion into the oil. This intrusion could cause a freeze break if the boat is kept outside during the cold winter temperatures.

Coil explained that Mercury outboards are usually on a 100-hour or every year maintenance schedule. And every 300 hours it's recommended they go through a more extensive service. Mercury sterndrives have a similar maintenance schedule with an annual service or every 100 hours, whichever comes first.



When inspecting equipment for the upcoming boating season, it's important to give the boat lift a good once over.



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Winter weather can have an adverse effect on boat docks. Prior to boating season it's important to give it a thorough inspection to repair damage and avoid any hazards.

Another familiar name around the Lake is Kelly's Port. Kyle Kelly, the General Manager, has plenty of experience when it comes to boats and docks. He recommends you start by giving your boat a good spring cleaning.

Kelly noted, "First, give your boat a good purge and cleaning to check for any potential damage over the wintertime. Sneaky raccoons, feral cats, and other animals sometimes like to call your boat 'home for the holidays.' Don't forget to check your life jackets, fire extinguishers, and other safety equipment to make sure they're in safe, working order. Second, I strongly recommend you test your battery, electrical systems, engine fluids, and start the motors to bring them up to temp which is a great way to ensure you start the season off right. Third, a review of your maintenance records and getting pertinent maintenance scheduled is very wise. Of course, we have those "do it your selfers" who enjoy this type of work, or you're welcome to call the professionals at Kelly's Port to see how we can make sure you're spending your time making memories on the water that last a lifetime."

Another Lake expert is Darin Kronk, who has been in the industry since 1988 and is known as the General Manager at

the old Yacht Haven Marina. He is now working with First Mate Yacht Services off HH in Lake Ozark. Kronk recommends that in to ensure safety for yourself and all passengers on your boat, it's advised to have a certified marine mechanic inspect all vessel systems. This includes the fuel system, electrical system, and engine for proper operation.

The mechanic, he agrees, should ensure all belts, hoses and electrical connections are in good operating condition and ready for the boating season. Batteries, he said, should also be tested to see if they need replacing. Other things that should also be checked include up to date fire extinguishers, adequate life vests and safety devices for all passengers on board, an operational horn, and all navigation lights to ensure they are visible and working properly.

"For the exterior of your boat, a good quality buff and wax will prepare and protect the finish from the hot summer sun and any other rough weather conditions that can be damaging. If your boat sits in the water for extended periods of time, or permanently, you should have bottom paint on the boat to prevent blistering or delamination," Kronk advised. "It is important to have your bottom paint inspected and/or reapplied every three to four years."

He recommends boaters make sure to always turn their exhaust blower (also called a bilge blower) on at least four minutes prior to starting the engine to ensure all fuel vapors are removed from the engine compartment. He suggests opening the engine hatch, if possible, for extra ventilation. "Always double-check for lingering smells with your nose before starting the engine," he said. "Gasoline fumes can be highly explosive, and if they are ignited by any spark from the engine it can result in an explosion or fire. This is why it is important to make sure all the electrical connections in the boat are properly installed and secure."

Finally, as we know, it is always a good idea to make sure your registration and insurance are up to date in case you get that friendly Water Patrol inspection while out on the water. If your insurance does not cover assistance towing on the lake and your boat decides to take a break, you can always contact TowBoatUS for towing services (573-216-4701). They also have great membership packages that will cover unexpected towing needs.

Kronk also has advice to assure your dock is ready for the season. "You want to make sure the dock cables are tight and secured properly to the dock and sea wall," he stressed. "You should have them inspected regularly to make sure they are not rusty or stretched out and are in good condition, so they do not break during the summer months when the water can get rough. This will ensure your dock remains in the position it was intended to be in and does not decide to take its own vacation out on the water. Inspect all the water lines to the dock to make sure there are not any frozen/cracked lines from the winter months. You will also want to make sure all electrical cables and plugs are in good condition and have NO bare wires that can lead to electric shock on or off the dock, or in the surrounding water. It is important that your dock is properly grounded, and breakers are installed to prevent electrocution. One of my recommendations is to use Dock Lifeguard LLC. for any electrical needs and safety improvements."

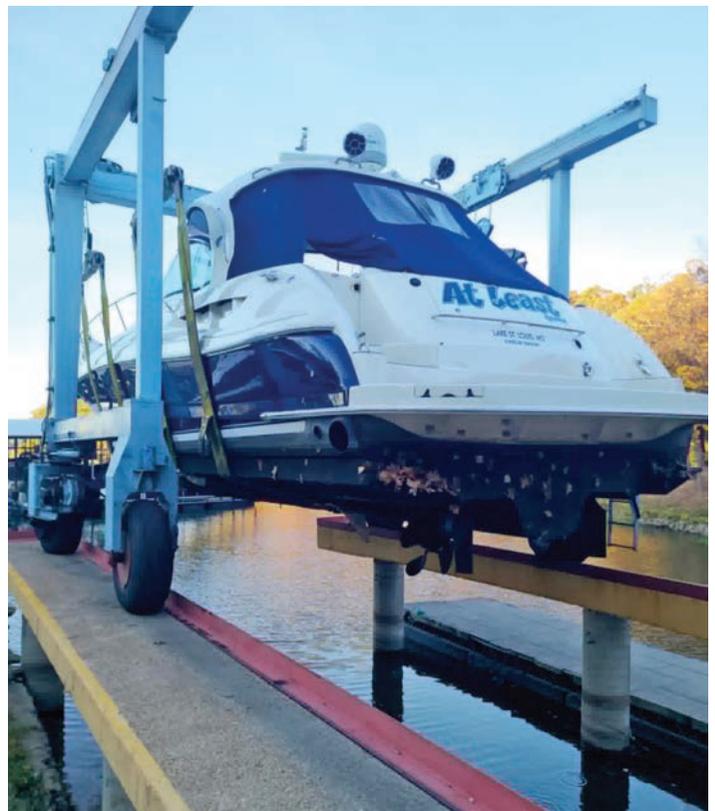
Someone who has plenty of Lake experience in the industry is Mark Maasen, co-owner of Poly Lift Boat Lifts. Maasen has some important tips and suggestions for boat, dock and lift owners. He reiterated Kronk's comments noting, "I'm not the dock expert, but I've been around and on docks for over 50 years. You need to check your dock cables to make sure they are not frayed or broken, and that dock ramp bolts are tight and secure. It wouldn't hurt to look at electrical connections to be sure they are intact. Just checking for loose bolts or cracked welds, and getting those fixed early can save a person a ton of money later. When inspecting, make sure you check where your Z purlins and posts are connected as well."

For boat lifts, he recommends checking all the bolts for tightness that may have come loose during the winter months, and look at the dock bracket attachments to make sure they are securely connected to the frame of your dock. Turn the control unit on and if the motor sounds raspy it's advisable to change it out before it becomes an emergency. Give the lift a good once over and even look below the water surface. If you see bolts or parts with excessive rust, it might be a good time to have a technician come and check everything for structural integrity. "But remember, just because it's rusty doesn't mean it's bad," he noted. "One last thing to look at are the hoses to make sure they are not rubbing against each other or anything else."

With the right inspections and adjustments needed, you'll be ready for a safe and hassle-free boating season.



A thorough inspection of your vessel, dock, and boat lift can help ensure a fun boating season. Pictured here: Kyle Kelly and his son Randal.



If your vessel sits in the water for an extended period of time it's important to have the bottom paint inspected and/or reapplied every three to four years.

# SAFE BOATING IS NO ACCIDENT: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



Story by DOUG BECK  
Photos by MARIE KROLIKOWSKI

**Y**ou purchased a boat or wave runner and you're anxious to hit the water. You've gathered your friends, packed your cooler, applied sunscreen, and you're ready to show off your new toy. Driving a boat is just like driving a car, right? Actually, it's not at all like driving a car. The best advice for a first time boat owner is to enroll in a boat education course before taking the helm. In fact, all boaters can benefit from this education.

Most states require boaters to complete an official and certified boater education course. The Boater Education Card (sometimes called a boater's license) is proof that you have success-



You must be at least 100 feet from a dock when creating a wake with your vessel.

fully completed your state's official and approved course. Boating Education requirements vary from state to state. Missouri's Boater Education Law went into effect January 1, 2005. The law states that any person born after January 1, 1984 must successfully pass a Missouri Boater Education class and test before operating any motorized vessel on the waters of the state.

Boating safety education is important for a number of reasons. It helps reduce personal injury and property damage associated with the use of recreational boats. Boaters can keep themselves and their passengers safe by learning about responsible boat operation, etiquette, and the rules of the waterways.

Thousands of boating accidents occur each year, and many can be avoided if the drivers take precautions. The United States Coast Guard recommends that all boaters take a boating safety course that meets the National Boating Education Standards prior to getting out on the water.

Without a doubt, the most common causes of boating accidents include not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD), falling overboard, capsizing and collision, and operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. A boating safety class addresses all of these concerns and much more, making one aware of the danger associated with careless boating and ways to boat safely and responsibly.

The slogan, "Safe Boating is no Accident," encourages every boat skipper to become involved with the safe boating process by enrolling in a class. But the education doesn't stop there. Safe boating is a family affair and information shared can provide the entire crew with a fun and learning experience.

There are other advantages to enrolling in a boating safety course. If you successfully complete an official course such as Boat Ed ([www.boat-ed.com](http://www.boat-ed.com)) or Ilearn to Boat ([www.ilearntoboat.com](http://www.ilearntoboat.com)), your boater education card is valid in every state that requires mandatory boating education. On successful completion of a boating education class, several insurance companies offer a discount on your premium.

Boating education courses are offered both in the classroom or online where you can work as your schedule permits. While this provides you with the information you need for safe boating, applying it on the water is the key to safety. A next step that proves beneficial for first-time boat owners is to seek the assistance of a United States Coast Guard credentialed Captain. A day on your boat with them will help you learn the proper way to operate and dock your vessel. The difference between handling an inboard versus an outboard can be addressed, as well as situations like close quarter turns, what to do when approaching another vessel, and so much more.

Boating accidents happen because of bad choices and lack of knowledge. With classroom education and on the water time with a Captain your boating confidence and skills will pay off with a positive and fun boating experience.



All first-time boat operators can benefit from completing a Boating Safety Course. Even seasoned operators can learn something new.



When overtaking another vessel, the vessel behind (the give-way vessel) must take action to avoid collision.

You must be at least 14 years of age to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft (PWC), unless you are under the supervision of someone one at least 16 years of age.



## WATER SAFETY COUNCIL LAKE OF THE OZARKS

The Water Safety Council of Lake of the Ozarks is a not-for-profit organization formed to:

Promote boating and water safety at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Serve as a local source for boating and water safety information for the general public.

Encourage cooperation, networking, and communication between the member agencies of the council as well as other organizations.

For information about the Council and it's programs call (573) 346-2227 or visit [lozwatersafetycouncil.com](http://lozwatersafetycouncil.com)

To register for a Boater Safety Course visit: [mshp.dps.missouri.gov](http://mshp.dps.missouri.gov)

For additional information on boat safety and upcoming events visit: <https://lozwatersafetycouncil.com/events>

## UPCOMING BOATER SAFETY COURSES:

**Course Date:** February 20, 2025

**Location:** Inn at Grand Glaze in Osage Beach

**Time:** 9 am to 4 pm

**Course Date:** March 30, 2025

**Location:** Big Thunder Marine in Lake Ozark

**Time:** 9 am to 4 pm

For information visit [lozwatersafetycouncil.com](http://lozwatersafetycouncil.com)  
Class size is limited and registration is required.

Children under the age of seven must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket unless they are in the cabin of a houseboat or cruiser.



## BASIC MISSOURI BOATING LAWS:

Any person born after January 1, 1984 must successfully pass a Missouri Boater Education course and test in order to operate a motorized vessel on the waters in the State of Missouri. This includes boats and PWC's.

You must be at least 14 years of age to operate a boat or personal watercraft (PWC), unless you are under the supervision of someone who is at least 16 years of age.

You must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket on board for every person on the boat. Children under the age of seven must wear a life jacket unless they are in the cabin of a houseboat or cruiser.

The speed limit at night is 30 mph, from 30 minutes after sunset until one hour before sunrise.

No person shall anchor a vessel positioned within one hundred feet of a permitted boat dock in a manner that obstructs ingress or egress of a watercraft to and from the dock, unless authorized by the boat dock permit holder.

No person shall secure a vessel to or enter upon a private permitted boat dock unless authorized to do so by the boat dock permit holder. This does not apply during inclement weather conditions or other emergencies.

You must operate at no-wake, idle speed within 100 feet of a dock, pier, anchored boat, or buoyed restricted area.

If you want to jump the wake of a passing vessel you must be at least 100 feet behind them.

Fire extinguishers are required and vary depending on the class of vessel.

Vessels from 16 to 40 feet must have a sounding device, such as a horn or a whistle. Vessels over 40 feet must have a sounding device and at least one bell.

From sunset to sunrise all vessels must display proper navigational lights.

In Missouri, it is illegal to operate a boat or PWC while intoxicated (BWI). Missouri's blood alcohol concentration limit for BWI is 0.08%. A chemical analysis of the defendant's blood, breath, saliva, or urine can be used to determine

if the BAC is above the legal limit. Charges for a BWI range from first offense to a Class E felony depending on number of offenses, injury to another person, and more.

### ENCOUNTERING OTHER VESSELS:

When operating a power driven vessel, you must give way to:

Any vessel not under command, such as an anchored or disabled vessel.

Any vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver, such as a vessel towing another.

A sailboat under sail.

A canoe or other vessel powered by paddles or oars alone.

Stand-on vessel: The vessel that should maintain its course and speed.

Give-way vessel: The vessel that must take easy and substantial action to avoid collision by stopping, slowing down, or changing course.

### CROSSING SITUATION:

Power vs Power: The vessel on the operator's port (left) side is the give way vessel. The vessel on the operator's starboard (right) side is the stand on vessel.

Power vs Sail: The powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand on vessel.

### OVERTAKING: COMING UP FROM BEHIND.

The vessel that is overtaking another vessel is the give-way vessel. The vessel being overtaken is the stand-on vessel.

### MEETING HEAD ON:

If both are under power, neither vessel is the stand-on vessel. Both vessels should keep to the starboard (right).

If one is under power and the other is under sail, the powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand-on vessel.



Henderson and Queen perform for spectators at Wonderland Camp.

# Starla & Scotty:

## A DYNAMIC WELL-KNOWN DUO AT THE LAKE

Story By VICKI WOOD

Photos Submitted



Stella Queen has mastered a number of instruments, including bass guitar.

One of the hardest working live music acts around the Lake area is Starla & Scotty. When first hearing them perform at the local horse rescue autumn weekend festival, their pure vibes stopped visitors in their tracks. Starla Queen plucked a bass that is taller than her demure height. Scotty Henderson sat behind the keyboards, adding melody to Queen's deep stringed beat. The duo not only have clear, harmonizing vocals they both are multi-talented instrument artists.

Their start at the Lake is interesting. The Jazzabilies, a western swing band, brought the genre to the Lake of the Ozarks in 2006. A style born in Texas, it became popular with lovers of bluegrass as a more kicked up, danceable beat. The lead vocalist and composer was Queen (Hillbilly Music). Their recorded CD was named "Show Me" and the tongue-in-cheek nod to their Missouri roots translated well to listeners. The tune introduces each band member on the title track, and highlights "who they were and where they were from" according to Queen.

The band included Starla Queen, Jimmy Queen, Dave Owens on bass, Tony Smith on fiddle, Matt De'Peiro on accordion, and Matt Wallace on drums. The Jazzabilies played regularly at Kula Bay in Hurricane Deck for some time. But, when the summer season drew to a close, the musicians pursued their own projects. Steel guitar and vocalist Scotty Henderson, as well as Dave Owens, played in that country ensemble, belting out a lot of the same rockabilly, jazz and western swing tunes. Their CD topped some charts and the Jazzabilies CD went #1 on Mike Gross Western Swing Chart, #1 on the Powersource Western Swing Chart, and #1 on the Roots Music Report Western Swing Chart.



The duo not only have clear, harmonizing vocals but are both multi-talented musicians.

Originally from Bowling Green, Missouri, Queen moved to the lake area in the 1980s. She is a Paralegal at the law offices of Allen & Rector in Lebanon. She graduated from Drury University in Springfield and also earned an Associate Degree in Business Management from St. Mary's College. The musician has also worked as a Branch Manager at MCM Savings Bank with mortgage lending, real estate closings, consumer lending,

deposit accounts, and marketing. She has served as a Chamber of Commerce President, Girl Scout Leader, and was with the East Central Board of Realtors. She has worked as a Marketing Director for the Missouri Country Music Hall of Fame, and a board member of the Lake Jazz Society. Where Queen's business degree and music meshes is her work in promotions, bookkeeping, and website development.

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Scotty Henderson plays a number of instruments, including the steel guitar.

A native of Eldorado, Kansas, Henderson and his wife Teresa live in Camdenton. He graduated from El Dorado Springs High School and moved to the Camdenton area in the 1980s. After Queen's husband Jimmy passed away in 2019 from a lengthy illness, Henderson made good on his promise to his friend and band member, and partnered with Queen to continue the legacy of duo performing. He is also a broker agent with John Farrell Real Estate Company.

The bass is Queen's specialty on instruments. She can frequently be found standing and plucking out the deep beat while she sings. This is just a tidbit of the instruments she can play. Her collection includes saxophone, steel guitar, any handheld guitar, keyboards, and more. Henderson excels with steel guitar, keyboard, and more. Together, they record their own professional background tracks to deliver a unique, quality sound that makes them sound like a full multi-piece band.

With a schedule that stays constantly booked, the hard working performers regularly appear at The Osage Beach Elks Lodge, HK's Restaurant at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Shawnee Bluff Winery, The American Legion, Westside Pub, and The Trophy Room at Old Kinderhook. They have made music for crowds at such various events and locations as the Heartland Antique Mall, The Lake of the Ozarks Food Truck Festival, and The Missouri Forget Me Not Horse Rescue festivals. Traveling out of the lake area, Starla & Scotty have popped up for appearances at Rich's Famous Burgers in the St. Louis area, The Clinton Eagles Lodge, The Wire Road Brewery in Battlefield, Missouri, and The Drunken Minnow in Warsaw.

In the tech world of music, Starla and Scotty have a presence. There are six tracks of their music on Spotify, along with a Starla and Scotty Radio Channel. Their music can also be found on Apple Music.

**They are recipients of the Lake of the Ozarks Lake Sun Readers Choice Award. Many additional awards and accolades have been added to their biography's over the years, including:**

#### **STARLA QUEEN:**

- Jimmy Dean Country Showdown Finalist
- National Academy of Western Artists "2007 Western Swing Song of the Year" and nominated for female vocalist of the year
- 2015- Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest Hall of Fame Member
- 2015-Cowtown Society Of Western Music Heroes Of Western Swing
- 2014 Northwest Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Member
  - 2014-Western Swing Society Hall Of Fame

#### **SCOTTY HENDERSON:**

- Played the legendary Lee Mace Opry Show
- Kansas Steel Guitar Hall of Fame Member
- Member of the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest Hall of Fame
- Appeared at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville
- Played with the world-acclaimed Texas Playboys for the Bob Will's Birthday Bash at Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa, OK.
- Wrote "Wild Horse" recorded by various country artists and in the top 40 Texas music chart

#### **TOGETHER, THE DUO HAVE DONE EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE THINGS:**

- Worked together for almost 20 years
- Received domestic and international airplay with the "Jazzabillies" and made several international music charts, including some #1 spots
- Both were staff musicians for the Missouri Country Music Hall of Fame Staff Band
- Both have appeared at the International Steel Guitar Convention
- Both have played with and/or opened for various country music stars

# RAISING HOPE FREE STORE:

## Heartfelt Heroes Helping Those in Need

Story by MARIE KROLIKOWSKI

Photos by BRAD GLIDEWELL

The retirement years look different for everyone. For many, the focus is on travel, golf, reading, or other activities that took a backseat to work. For Jack and Judy Tezak it's all about helping those in the Lake community who need it. The Tezak's are the owners and operators of Raising Hope Free Store in Camdenton, This non-profit resource for families and individuals provides everything from clothing to furniture, programs, services, and more all at no cost to those who need it. They bridge agencies and have formed a web of interconnected sources to best assist those in need. The organization is run by Jack and Judy, their manager Michael, and the help of 16 volunteers. No one is paid a salary. Their mission, they explained, is to improve the quality of life for those in the community.

The Free Store was originally created in early 2014 by LANI (Lake Area Needs Initiative) and was located in the Keystone Industrial Park. Until mid 2016, it had been operated in several locations with different individuals involved and with limited success. It was then Jack and Judy decided to solely spearhead it and apply for their own non-for-profit. In 2017 it was renamed Raising Hope Free Store. Since that time, the word has spread throughout the community and the organization has grown tremendously, both with those who donate and those who utilize the services.

This past July, Michael Sutyak came on board as the manager. Originally from the Kansas City area, Sutyak had been traveling the country with his dog for the past three years, looking for a place that felt like home. "I traveled through 47 states in three years," he explained. "I had been taking care of my grandparents and needed to fill that void in my life." Sutyak used to visit the Lake area as a kid, and as fate had it ended up back here. He was looking for substance and service in his life, and making a connection with Jack and Judy has provided him with what he was longing for.

"This changed my life," Sutyak said. "Jack and Judy are like my parents, and I needed something like this. I love working with teams like this. The camaraderie and the volunteers, and knowing I'm here for them and they're here for me is wonderful."

The Lake area was familiar to Jack. He had been coming here every summer since he was a kid in 1966. In 2008 the couple left their Joliet home and decided to make the Lake their permanent residence. "This was not my plan for retirement but God's plan," Judy said. "I've always been a faithful person and feel we are tremendously blessed with being able to do this. The people who come in are like family."



Owners Jack and Judy Tezak, along with manager Michael Sutyak, are passionate about providing much needed services and supplies to those in the Lake community.

Judy can be found six days a week at the store, doing everything from office work, to sorting shelves, to welcoming the store's shoppers. "I basically have my hand in everything," she explained. Jack is the primary pick-up person for those donations people can't bring in themselves, and fills in other areas as needed. Together, they harmonize to bring a much needed resource to the community.

Raising Hope Free Store provides clothing, household items, furniture, personal items, baby and kids items, working appliances, and an emergency food closet for those who need some help. They are not a food bank, but support those who have an immediate food crisis. Donations help stock freezers with meat and those who need it are given food to make an entire meal.



Feeling more like a boutique, the store is extremely organized and easy to shop.

Shoppers can frequent the store once every 30 days, and may be limited to what they can take depending on the current supply. A small section of the store houses a donation boutique of items. “These are more wants than needs,” Judy explained. On several occasions, Judy has ignored the suggestion of a donation and has given an item to someone who displayed a special attachment to it. One such item was an infant christening gown. An elderly shopper saw the gown and couldn’t believe this was the exact one her daughter had been baptized in. Where it had been all these years, the woman said, was a mystery.

The Tezak’s provide services beyond food and clothing for those that are homeless. A shower and toiletry items are available for those who need it, along with a washer and dryer to use free to charge. Although the store has operating hours, it is available 24/7 for a number of Lake area organizations that help those that need immediate help for their crisis.

This past holiday season, their toy store gave away items to ensure 400 area kids had a gift for Christmas. This surpassed their number of 244 items the year before. Knowing these numbers will continue to rise, Judy said they are in need of toys to prepare for the next season.

As a result of their continuing efforts, three cars were donated to needy families this past year. These cars were the result of generous donations from individuals and the Super Cat Fest 4 Kids event held annually in connection with the Lake of the Ozarks Shootout. This event makes generous donations annually to the store. Those in need of a car were asked to submit a letter stating why they needed it, and ultimately it was a

raffle that determined who received them. The organization doesn’t rely on national grant money, but thrives on donations from individuals and other area organizations. Some individuals donate monthly to the store, and outside organizations donate and hold fundraisers for them. “I have angels that come in and drop one-hundred dollar bills,” Judy said.

Shoppers and those who utilize their services, Judy said, are from multiple facets of the community. “Most of my seniors were working for minimum wage years ago and don’t have a large income,” she explained. “We get single parent families and foster families. We have people that have been coming into the store for years and their kids call me grandma. Most of the people who frequent the store are working, they have jobs and they are trying.” Some are homeowners and many pay rent, but just need a little help to make ends meet.

Several area organizations also use the store for their client’s needs. These include Family Facets, CADV, Pathways, Bridges of Missouri, Central Ozark Medical Group, Red Cross, Light House, Cedar Ridge, Missouri Mentors, and the Department of Family Services from all four counties in the Lake area.

In addition to the store, the couple have a second not-for-profit organization. They own a four-bedroom home that provides transitional housing for men. “This is for those who beat an addiction and can’t find a place to stay for whatever reason,” Judy said. “Residents have to adhere to strict rules like attending church, no use of drugs or alcohol, they need a job, they pay rent, and they have to work on moving on with their life.”

The Tezak’s have numerous plans in the works to continue helping those in need. The construction of a conference center and computer lab is currently underway. They will be providing assistance for interview and job preparation, resume writing, and help filling out job applications. Classes being considered include meal planning and cooking on a budget, household budgeting, self defense classes, and smoking cessation. Their ideas, they said, are limitless. But funding needs to be had to implement much of this.

“I do this because it fills my heart and soul,” Judy explained. “Doesn’t God ask us all to serve? This is my way of discipling.” For Jack, the effort is equally rewarding. “I’ve learned to let go and let God,” he said. “I used to live with blinders on, but now I pay attention to opportunities or doors put in front of me.”

Raising Hope Free Store is located at 956 N. Business Rt. 5 in Camdenton. Hours are Tuesday from 11-3, Thursday from 11-5, Saturdays from 9-noon (May-September) and 11-2 (October-April). Interested in knowing more, call for a tour of the store. Contact The Raising Hope Free Store at (573) 525-1420.



Raising Hope Free Store is located at 956 N. Business Rt. 5 in Camdenton. Outside of a small section of items, everything in the store is offered to those in need free of charge.

### 2023 YEAR-END STATISTICS:

1791 families visited the store, totaling 4547 family members.  
 338 own their own home.  
 731 rent where they live.  
 119 are homeless.  
 188 have no means of transportation.  
 116 are Veterans.  
 287 are Seniors.  
 The majority of visitors come from Camden County.  
 Visitors from over 26 other counties came to the store.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Donate!!  
 Donations are accepted during store hours or by appointment.  
 Items accepted include household items, clothing, decorative items, books, children’s items, freestanding stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, dressers, twin beds, twin mattresses, non-perishable food items, and more.  
 If making a financial donation, you can specify what you want the funds spent on.  
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## HOW TO SURVIVE A

# HEART ATTACK OR STROKE

Story by LAKE REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Photos from METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

**F**ebruary is American Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States for both men and women. It's the time to raise awareness about heart disease and encourage people to take care of their cardiovascular health. In the event of a heart attack or stroke, it's important to know what steps to take.

"The first step is recognizing what's happening," explained Zubair Khan, M.D., FACC. "You want to be familiar with all of the signs of heart attack and stroke so you are ready to act immediately. The faster you seek care, the less damage done and the more likely the person will survive and even recover."

## SIGNS OF HEART ATTACK

Not all heart attacks have chest pain. Suspect a heart attack when the person has any of the following symptoms:

- A feeling of pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of the chest.
- Discomfort in one or both arms, the back, the neck, the jaw, or the stomach.
- Feeling short of breath for no known reason.
- Feeling nauseated or light-headed or breaking out in a cold sweat.

“If someone shows these signs of a heart attack, seek medical help, even if the signs go away,” Dr. Khan said. “Heart attacks often begin with a partial blockage that causes signs that may be easy to dismiss. You want to catch that blockage before it completely stops blood flow.”

## SIGNS OF STROKE

An easy way to remember the signs of stroke is to remember, BE FAST:

- B** – Balance. Has the person lost their balance? Ask if they are dizzy.
- E** – How are their eyes? Ask if they are having trouble seeing.
- F** – Face drooping. Ask them to smile. Does one side droop?
- A** – Arm weakness. Ask them to raise both arms. Does one side drift downward?
- S** – Speech difficulty. Ask them to repeat a simple sentence. Are the words slurred?
- T** – Time to call 911. Don’t delay. If the person shows any of these signs, call 911 immediately.

## DON'T HESITATE. GET HELP

People often delay calling for emergency help. One major reason: They don’t want to be embarrassed if it turns out not to be serious. “But, it’s better to be safe than sorry when your life is on the line,” Dr. Khan stressed.

Also, it’s best to call 911 for an ambulance rather than driving to the hospital. The emergency medical services professionals will begin important tests and call the hospital while on the way, giving the care team a chance to prepare for your arrival.

“Every minute matters, and the information provided from the ambulance while it’s in route can significantly reduce the time between arrival and treatment,” Dr. Khan added. “Don’t delay. Act fast. Call 911.”



## TIME FOR YOUR COMEBACK

Recovering from a heart attack or stroke takes time and effort. You might need to pick up new habits and drop some old ones. To help you succeed, your doctor likely will prescribe rehabilitation therapies.

If you are recovering from a stroke, your personalized plan may include physical, occupational and speech therapies to help you regain strength, abilities and independence.

If you are a heart patient at Lake Regional, you may receive Pritikin Intensive Cardiac Rehab. This program teaches you how to care for your heart and provides supervision and support as you build up your strength, stamina and self-confidence. Learn more at [lakeregional.com/CardiacRehab](http://lakeregional.com/CardiacRehab).

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**OUR  
COMMITMENT  
RUNS  
DEEP**



# Wake Up To Water:

## THE ALLURE OF LAKESIDE LIVING

Story by MARIE KROLIKOWSKI  
 Photos submitted



**W**ith the construction of the Bagnell Dam and formation of the Lake in the early 1930's, the Lake of the Ozarks area experienced significant growth as a vacation destination. The addition of amenities and activities to attract tourists continued to fuel this growth. Today, many are turning this vacation destination into ownership opportunities and a more frequent use opportunity. There are a number of ways to experience Lakefront living and all the attributes it offers.

Matt Schrimpf, broker/owner of Lake Ozark Realty at Berkshire Hathaway in Lake Ozark, suggests ways individuals can achieve the dream of living on the Lake. Schrimpf was raised at the Lake and has been selling real estate here for the past 22 years.

"Things to consider in purchasing a property is your lifestyle, affordability, how much maintenance you want to do, and what fits your needs," Schrimpf explained. "There's many different opportunities and price points depending on the size and location."

Well known areas with larger homes, such as Porto Cima and The Villages, are higher priced he said. The home sizes, amenities, and desirable location affects the price of these properties. The north shore Rocky Mount area off of Hwy W is further down the Lake and offers less ease of travel, but offers more affordable options. “If you’re just looking to get yourself on the Lake, you can get into a one-bedroom condo at Southwood Shores for around \$139,000,” Schrimpf said. “A single family home on the Lake can be more affordable if you’re willing to put some sweat equity into it. A small cabin of sorts with a dock can be found for \$200,000 - \$250,000, but will require some work.”

Lakefront single family homes and condo’s can be found throughout the Lake of the Ozarks area. Either can be the right choice depending on your budget, needs, and desired location. Single family homes require outside maintenance and upkeep, but often come with a private dock for your personal use. Condominiums don’t require the outside maintenance and are the preferred choice for those who just want to come and enjoy, but are often limited to a community dock space. Either gives you the advantage of living Lakefront.

The further away from the central hub of the Lake, the more affordable real estate becomes. Although the majority of buyers prefer a cove location, Schrimpf said this affects the desirability of the property but not necessarily the price. Other options to get the Lakefront living experience is a golf cart community, in which you often have a view of the Lake and easy access to a dock space, and the newly constructed Toy Box man cave area in Lake Ozark.

Mission Bay in Camdenton is a golf cart community that offers a variety of options to experience Lakelife. This includes single family homes on the Lake, Villas on the Lake, Duplexes on the Lake, Single Family Lake View off the Lake, and duplexes with a Lake view off the Lake. Second tier properties also offer Lake access. The development offers residents several amenities, including a golf cart path with easy access to the community dock where you can easily access your boat that’s already in the water.

Wendy and Dennis Marotta moved from the Chicago area to Mission Bay in September of 2023. They built a ranch home with a walk out basement on a Lakeview lot. Dennis had visited the Lake a number of times for golf trips, and it only took Wendy one visit to fall in love with the area. The couple decided this was where they wanted to retire. They visited Mission Bay and were sold.

“We absolutely love it here,” Wendy said. “It’s a smaller golf cart community with great amenities. We have wonderful neighbors who look out for each other, and a gorgeous clubhouse with indoor and outdoor pools. Our docks are off the main channel in a small cove near the 32 mile marker. The Lake isn’t as busy here, and we can still get to three grocery stores within 15 minutes.” Easy access to their pontoon boat, Wendy said, is one of the biggest perks about living in this community.

A new development in Lake Ozark offers The Toy Box luxury lofts, or man caves as some are referring to them as. Situated on approximately 20 acres at the corner of Horseshoe Bend and Bagnell Dam Blvd., this location offers a 180 degree panoramic view of the Lake. The units offer a small living space with a kitchenette and bathroom along with garage space to store a boat, RV, or vehicle. A number of amenities are available to owners, including a pool, pickleball courts, and a clubhouse. These units are for residential use only.



Porto Cima is home to a private Jack Nicklaus Signature Course.



A lakeside pool keeps residents refreshed at 38 Special Luxury RV Resort.



A fitness center is one of the many amenities at Coconuts RV Resort.



Regatta Bay and Palisades are just a sampling of the condominium communities at the Lake.

Another way to afford owning a Lakefront property, Schrimpf said, is to look into a vacation rental. “More people have been buying vacation rentals over the years,” he explained. “Ten years ago, this wasn’t a big deal. A few years ago this became a hot topic.” The advantage of rental property is that the owner can receive some income, yet still use the property for their personal use. “What’s great about the Lake is it offers something for everyone,” Schrimpf said. “If you like action, activities, and being around a lot of people we have it. If you want quiet and to get away from all of that, it’s available also.”

Born and raised in Macks Creek, realtor Linda Eldridge has been helping buyers and sellers for the past 20 years. Working with Coldwell Banker in Camdenton, Eldridge said she enjoys people and helping them find a property they will fall in love with.

Eldridge said more people are choosing to retire at the Lake than ever before, and others are choosing to buy rental properties. Although rental is slower in the winter, people still come to the Lake for holidays and such. Since 2021, home prices she said have doubled in price. Condos prices are one and one-half times the cost of what they were prior to 2021. The majority of her clients, she said, request the west side of the Lake. “Prices aren’t as expensive on this side, and the further down the Lake you go the better the prices get,” she explained. “The difference is a minimum of 20 percent difference in price in some areas.”

Eldridge has some sound advice for someone who is considering a property to rent out. “If you’re going to use it as rental property, verify before you purchase it that it can be rented. Some communities don’t allow short term rental,” she said. “Many owners choose to use a management company to handle the business. Look into this versus handling the rentals yourself.” Condo’s, she said, tend to attract more weekend visitors. A condo offers much less maintenance than a single family home and can be a deciding factor for many. On the flip side, condos typically come with monthly assessment fees, and insurance rates for these properties have increased significantly.

“The winter market is always slower, so it’s easier to negotiate the purchase price of a property,” Eldridge said. “In January, the market starts picking up. People selling second homes often sell them furnished because they don’t want to move the furniture or they have no use for it.”



Residents at Coconuts RV Park gather for a group photo.





Coconuts RV Resort offers a number of amenities and a breathtaking view of the main channel.

The RV scene is booming at the Lake of the Ozarks, and more and more lakefront RV parks are popping up. An affordable way to enjoy the attributes of living on the water, many people are finding this a preferred and affordable option. Coconuts RV Resort, located at the seven mile-marker of the Gravois arm, offers a number of amenities for those who stay there. Anton Bergmann, Resort General Manager, said construction of the park was started in 2021 and completely opened in 2023. “It added a premium space for people who don’t want to pay a premium price,” he explained. “The biggest advantage is you are at Coconuts and there’s plenty to do.”

The space is located adjacent to the Coconuts Bar & Grill property. RV sites are available for annual or nightly rates. The resort offers a laundry facility, pickleball court, shower house, a convenience store, pools, the waterpark area, a dog park, a fitness center, and short or long-term boat and wave runner slip rental. Boat slips are 10x30 or 12x40 and are covered. This allows residents to keep their boats in the water for easy access when they want to get out on the water.

For annual members, there are exclusive happy hour events, monthly gatherings, and discounts on boat rental. RV sites available include premium Lakeview back-in sites, poolside back-in, standard back-in, and partial Lakeview back-in. The size limit on sites is 10x50 feet, and include water, sewer, trash, and 20, 30, or 50 amp electric. The area is gated and pets are allowed.

Bergmann explained that 80-percent of the residents are seasonal, and come from Kansas City, St. Louis, Iowa, and Omaha among other areas. Although some amenities are seasonal, residents can pay the annual rate and enjoy their RV year round.

“It’s very friendly and family oriented,” Bergmann said. “There are monthly block parties and people form their own little community here. It’s a neighborhood and our goal is to build more off of that. Future plans, he said, include several family focused upgrades scheduled to be completed soon.

Another RV park new to the Lake area is 38 Special Luxury RV Resort. Opened in 2023, this resort covers an entire peninsula at the 38 mile-marker of the main channel. An adult focused gated community, all 40 of the RV sites offer a spectacular view of the Lake.

Each spot offers standard RV hookup, 100 mbps fiber internet, a smokeless fire pit, a pair of Adirondack chairs, and a four person table. Amenities include a pool, a large open-air pavilion with a kitchen, a bathhouse, laundry facilities, and a white sand beach with a swim dock. Two docks off the point of the resort offer boat slips for lease, and there’s a boat ramp for convenient launching. Planned events bring the sense of community to the resort.

Deer Valley RV Park in Sunrise Beach offers over 300 campsites that are rented primarily on a yearly basis. Short term rentals are also available. Conveniently tucked behind Franky & Louie’s Beachfront Bar & Grill at the 10 mile- marker of the main channel, the wooded area offers covered boat docks and is golf cart friendly. A new pickleball court has been added, and all the amenities of Franky & Louie’s are just a short distance away.

Other RV Resorts around the Lake area include Westside RV Park in Sunrise Beach, Millstone Marina & RV Resort in Gravois Mills, and Mermaid Cove which is located on the Gravois Arm of the Lake.

# Ozarks Amphitheater:



Country music fans enjoyed an entertaining performance by Little Big Town at the Ozarks Amphitheater.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Story by JUDY GOPPERT

## FEATURING STARS UNDER THE STARS

If you have not experienced an event at the Ozarks Amphitheater, you have been missing out. Recently named the “Best Live Music Venue in Missouri”, it’s located in Camdenton and the heart of the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks. There have been some showstopping entertainers gracing the stage recently, including Willie Nelson, Dwight Yoakam, Dierks Bentley, and Cody Johnson. A concert under the stars at this beautiful Lake area venue is truly a great way to enhance the warm weather season.

“The Amphitheater was built in 1993,” noted Mary Kay von Brendel, Director of Operations. “It unfortunately had two false starts. Our owners had previous experience working with Red Rocks Amphitheater in Colorado, and when the venue came up for auction in 2013, they decided this was an opportunity for them to own their own. It took two years of hard work to bring the venue back to life, and we reopened our doors in June of 2015. We have been working ever since to rebuild the venue’s reputation within the industry.”

In addition to music and comedic performances, the venue offers a variety of food and beverage vendors including BBQ, hot

dogs, pizza, nachos, snacks, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and more. Tailgating in the parking lot is not permitted. Cell phone cameras are allowed and bags must be small purses under a certain size or clear bags. Bags and purses are subject to search. A list of items not permitted inside is available on the website. Smoking is permitted in designated areas.

Stadium style seating is on a rising grade and at full capacity can accommodate 10,222 visitors. The venue offers VIP seating, Reserved +, Reserved, and General Admission seating options. Tickets are required for all persons, except for children under two years of age.

The venue enjoys bringing the most popular performers to the stage, and at the end of each season they survey their fan club to see who they want to see. They then combine all this data in a spreadsheet, and in October they attend the IEBA Conference in Nashville.

“This gives us the opportunity to meet with the artists’ agents face to face to discuss what worked and what didn’t, and what the venue has planned for the upcoming season,” von Brendel said. “We also discuss the artists we are interested in

Ice Cube, an American rapper, songwriter, actor, and film producer brought his talents to the Ozarks Amphitheater stage. PHOTOS SUBMITTED

and their availability for the upcoming season. Our calendar in the off season is similar to a revolving door as most dates have numerous artist holds on them.”

By doing this, they have built a great relationship and reputation with these agents, so now the opportunities go both ways. She explained, “We make offers on acts we would like to have, and they come to us with ideas of artists that would work well for us and who will be near our venue, and would like to be featured.”

The venue will kickoff it’s entertainment this May and are slated to have over 25 shows this year, with some national tours making a stop at the Lake. In the offseason, they are working on improving the entrances, landscaping, and aesthetic look of the venue as they never want, to stop evolving and improving.

The venue truly has a unique feel as it is nestled in the heart of the Lake of the Ozarks landscape. The topography of the Ozarks and the setting of the Amphitheater make for an exceptional acoustic experience. The venue lends itself to a more intimate setting for artists and guests alike.

“We strive to create a guest experience that we would love, and pride ourselves on our customer service as our employee motto is ‘Turning Moments into Memories.’ The entire guest experience, from the parking lots, to the entry process, concessions, bathrooms, the exit, and eventual clearing of the parking lots are all areas that we continue to focus on and improve,” she explained.

Guests can enjoy an exceptional night of entertainment, from the pre-concert entertainment at either Stonebroke Bar and Grill or the CoMo Connect Plaza, to the local/regional and national touring artists on the Main Stage.

They partner with other lake area attractions and their growing list of sponsors, marketing partners, and businesses that support them are a key to their growth and prosperity over the years. Their team looks forward to making an even bigger economic impact on the community each year.

For additional information and the show schedule, visit [ozarksamphitheater.com](http://ozarksamphitheater.com)

Conveniently located in Camdenton, the Ozarks Amphitheater can seat over 10,000 visitors.

FACEBOOK PHOTO



REO Speedwagon has been entertaining fans since it was formed in 1967. The iconic band recently rocked the stage at the Ozarks Amphitheater. PHOTOS SUBMITTED





Brian and Katie Krolkowski chose Seven Springs Winery for their October 2023 wedding.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

# Say “I Do” With A View

HOSTING A LAKE AREA WEDDING

Story by VICKI WOOD and MARIE KROLIKOWSKI

The arrival of Spring brings a favorite season for many couples: the wedding season. The Lake of the Ozarks has become one of the most sought after wedding destinations in the midwest. With so many options available, how does one go about planning the biggest day of their life?

Sacha Patires is the owner of Whimsical Weddings & Events and has been helping to plan weddings at the Lake for the past 20 years. Although she's seen many changes in detail preferences, her basic advice remains the same. "My first tip is to not procrastinate in booking a venue," Patires said. "Spring and Fall are the most popular times of the year for weddings at the Lake, overtaking the hot summer season." As a wedding planner, Patires knows that local vendors are not always the possible or preferred choice. Due to some limited resources at the Lake, Patires encourages her clients to look outside the area too. "Remember your guests and don't act like the day is only about you," she advised. Patires said it's important to treat all guests and bridal party persons with respect and gratitude. In planning the event, Patires strives to keep brides realistic in terms of what they can afford and the options available. The most important piece of advice, she said, is to stay humble and be present. "Just enjoy the entire journey," she said. "Plan your event in the following steps: Celebrate the moment you get engaged, make your to do list, set your budget, and then start your planning." A Lake wedding today, she said, can cost anywhere between \$8000 when simply done to the average cost of \$30,000.

The Lake has always been a popular destination for those from other areas as it provides a vacation spot for all invited. In fact, Patires said ninety-percent of her business are clients from somewhere other than the Lake area, or those who have a second home here. "People come to the Lake for the experience of everyone being able to have fun in one location," she said.

Since the COVID pandemic, Patires said weddings have become smaller. "It gave people time to re-evaluate who they really want at their wedding," she said. "It hit a lot of people hard financially, and this affected wedding planning also." As a result, a number of new trends are emerging on the wedding scene.

For one, people are turning to digital means more for save the date announcements, wedding invitations, and responses. Wedding parties are becoming smaller, with the bride and groom reigning in on who they want by their side on the big day. Vintage themes are making a comeback, with those wanting to get back to the better days. This includes more muted colors rather than the bold and bright, which provides a subtle and beautiful look. Although flowers are still tradition, more fruits and vegetables are being used for centerpieces and accents. Candlelight, Patires said, will always be a classic staple for any wedding and is one of the most overlooked aspects in design. As far as music is concerned, anything goes and is dependent on the budget. Morning after brunches, once the rage, are being replaced by events held prior to the wedding as guests typically need to travel home the day after. Above all, Patires said, it's important to stay true to who you are. "When brides get too trendy they stop looking like themselves," she said. "It's important to stay authentic to yourself, your style, and who you are."



The Lodge at Camp Pin Oak can accommodate up to 130 people for a unique wedding experience.

[HTTPS://WWW.ZOLA.COM/WEDDING-VENDORS/WEDDING-VENUES/CAMP-PIN-OAK](https://www.zola.com/wedding-vendors/wedding-venues/camp-pin-oak)



Sassafras Springs offers a barn setting for a quaint country wedding venue.

As stated, venues at the Lake are limited and often need to be booked well in advance. One popular choice this season are those that are more rustic in appearance and design. The Lodge at Camp Pin Oak in the Lake of the Ozarks State Park at Kaiser offers a hall, use of the commercial kitchen, seating for 130 guests, and cabins that are used as accommodations. It does not include decor, furnishings, linens, and tableware. There is no staff or meal service which does put the expense and labor on the bride and groom. The setting can't be beat if you're looking for a rustic retreat. Camp Pin Oak's grand lodge is majestic with a stone fireplace that's the perfect backdrop for photo opportunities.

Another country style setting can be found at Sassafras Springs, located just outside of Eldon. Named Best of Eldon in a 2023 reader's poll, the venue features a 4000 square-foot barn that houses an impressive crystal chandelier. There is a quaint lake and arched bridge on the property, stone fire pits, and spacious fields for outdoor event needs. A Photo Booth, tables, and chairs are included. Two additional perks of the venue are the use of the country wedding chapel, and lodging that consists of three bedrooms with rock fireplaces and a jacuzzi. This wedding venue is only available from April through October for use.

Wineries are another popular choice for wedding settings. Seven Springs Winery hosts weddings with an experienced and knowledgeable events staff. Located on acres of picturesque rolling green hills just outside of Linn Creek, the venue is ideal for both formal or informal events. The landscape provides breathtaking views, and the large 10,000 square-foot facility and spacious dance floor is a crowd pleaser. The venue can accommodate both indoor and outdoor ceremonies and full services are available at the reception hall, winery hall, or vineyard for 50 to 300 persons depending on your need. Complete on-site culinary services are provided along with an event coordinator to help plan the day. Other amenities include taste testing for up to six people to help make your menu selection, state of the art sound system, complete set up and cleanup, and fireworks for an additional fee.



Jan Jan Waterfront weddings

**CHOOSE THE PERFECT LAKE AREA VENUE:**

Look for stunning views of the area, and amenities like docks or patios for photos. Ensure the venue has options for both indoor and outdoor spaces in case of unexpected weather.

**PLAN FOR WEATHER AND COMFORT:**

Provide shade, fans, or heaters for outdoor weddings depending on the season. Have a rain backup plan if exclusively outdoors, like a tent or covered area.

**COORDINATE DECOR WITH THE NATURAL SETTING:**

Embrace the Lake area beauty with minimal, nature-inspired decorations. Use earthy tones, wood accents, candles, and floral to enhance the natural vibe.

**CONSIDER TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESSIBILITY:**

Arrange parking or shuttles for guests, especially if the location is remote. Provide clear directions and signage to the venue.

**TIMING AND LIGHTING:**

Plan the ceremony to coincide with golden hour for breathtaking photos. Use string lights, lanterns, or candles for a romantic evening glow.

**WATER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

If the event is lakefront, keep an eye on the water's edge if children are attending.

**DRESS CODE CONSIDERATIONS:**

Let guests know about the terrain to guide their footwear choices.

# DUNCAN JEWELRY



*The Engagement Specialists*





**While there are numerous wedding venues and vendors at the Lake, we are including just a sampling.**

**VENUES:**

- The Exchange Wedding Venue
- The Bridal Cave
- Lake Breeze Event Center
- Seven Springs Winery
- Sassafras Springs
- The Legacy Barn
- Waterfront Weddings
- Shawnee Bluff Winery
- The 1931 Venue
- Old Kinderhook Resort, Golf Club & Spa
- The Lodge of Four Seasons
- Margaritaville Lake Resort
- H. Toad's Entertainment Complex

**CATERERS:**

- Angela's Lake Catering
- Bubba's Hillbilly BBQ
- Table of 5 Catering
- Sweet Chipotle Catering
- K & H Catering
- Word of Mouth Catering
- Reinhardt Circle
- Dining by Design
- A Catered Affair
- Catering Creations

**BAKERIES:**

- Wick Sugar Dessert Shop
- Reaper Sweets
- The Sweet Farm Bakery
- Cupcakes on the Lake
- Bakeries at HyVee, Dierbergs, and Walmart

**ATTIRE:**

- Truly Bridal
- Normans Bridal
- Dala's Bridal

**FLORAL:**

- Janine's Flowers
- Evergreen
- Blakley's Silk Blooms LLC
- Above & Beyond Floral Design
- Gather
- Forever and Always Flowers
- Hy-Vee Floral



Seven Springs Winery offers a number of venue options and can accommodate up to 300 persons.

If a simple, waterfront wedding is your desire look no further than Jan Jan Waterfront Weddings in Osage Beach. More and more couples are choosing the Lake area as their destination for a fun and quick wedding getaway. Jan Jan Waterfront Weddings provides the minimalist solution for a pop up, elopement, or convenient no hassle wedding. Customization is minimal and a dockside wedding chapel provides all the standard needs. Custom add-ons are available, however, so you can also make the lakefront point your own. The venue maximum capacity is 30 people.

If a luxurious wedding is what you're seeking, there are many venues at the lake to choose from. The Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark is a prime example and has been hosting formal affairs for decades. A fairy tale wedding can easily be arranged with nuptials set in several locations throughout the complex. For an outdoor event, The Japanese Garden is offered. A terrace rooftop reception can be booked, but the utmost in elegance is felt in The Grand Ballroom. Many services are available in house including catering, event planning, decor, and lodging.

Traditional wedding seekers often turn to churches and event centers for their day. With so many to choose from, the couple is sure to find one that even offers dinner in a fellowship hall. Event centers around the Lake typically have working relationships with wedding vendors, with the ease of adding all the needed services addressed by the event manager.

Regardless of your budget, number of guests, and wedding needs, the Lake of the Ozarks is the perfect wedding destination.



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## MASTERING THE WATERSPORTS: **KIRBY'S SCHOOL OF WAKE CAN HELP**

Many water enthusiasts are trading their water skis in for wakeboards.

Story by MARIE KROLIKOWSKI

Photos submitted

**W**hether it's the adrenaline rush you're looking for, a good workout, or just a little fun there's a water sport for you. The progression of water sports has definitely changed over the years, from waterskiing to tubing to wakeboarding, wakesurfing, and even wakefoiling. Whatever your age, passion, or ability there's opportunity to ride the waves at the Lake of the Ozarks. And there's professional instruction to help you learn and even master it.

Kirby Liesmann, owner of Kirby's School of Wake in Osage Beach, offers the ultimate water sports experience in a fun, safe, and professional learning environment for riders of all levels. From May until September, his services at the Lake include instruction in skiing, wakesurfing, wakeboarding, and wakefoiling.

As the Lake becomes busier, navigating it can be a little more challenging. A newer boat may have instrumentation the driver isn't accustomed to. Or maybe a refresher course for a seasoned driver is just what is needed to become more comfortable behind the wheel. Liesmann offers boating operation instruction for first time to veteran boat operators. "I offer both boat driving and boat sport driving," he explained. "It's about wake responsibility, how to be a respectable driver, how to navigate the best location to participate in the water sport, and how to basically use their water sport vessel."

Off the water enhancements to learning water sports include cable park lessons, trampoline lessons, and video trick analysis for those looking to master the basic to advanced tricks. Throughout the summer, Liesmann also offers a variety of camps and special programs.



A professional wakeboarder, Kirby Liesmann started Kirby's School of Wake in 2008.

Kirby's School of Wake provides many opportunities for everyone to participate and get the most out of their time on the water. They cater to both individuals and groups, and first-timers to experts. They consider themselves a one-stop-shop for all your water sport needs. This includes professional service and coaching, a family-friendly environment, safe licensed boat drivers, and top of the line boats and equipment.

A professional wakeboarder, Liesmann started Kirby's School of Wake in 2008. He was first introduced to the sport at the age of 14, rode Jr. Pro in 2006, and has been riding in the Pro division since 2010. His passion for teaching, he explained, is rooted in his past experience at the "school of hard knocks." His own personal hard falls and failed attempts has been the driving force for helping riders at all levels progress in a fundamentally correct and safe manner. He's spent thousands of hours training and shadowing the best professional coaches in the industry, and is able to create a specialized program for students of all levels. "My theory is that if I can get a student to feel the proper form, either through a simulation on the back of the boat or through an on-water drill, they are going to grasp the concept much quicker in the application of what they are learning," he said. His students have ranged in age from a three year-old wakeboarder to a 78 year-old on a wakesurf board.

Although waterskiing was once the rage, Liesmann explained many are trading in their skis and turning to wakesurfing instead. Wakeboarding, he explained, has also taken off and offers endless possibilities for those of all ages. "Wakeboarding is an extreme sport and many people seek the adrenaline rush," he explained. "There's endless possibilities with it involving speed, jumps, and extreme tricks. We teach ways to do it by starting with lower speed and less impact and go from there. We instruct on the softest way to ride a wakeboard and ways to help avoid the hard falls." For younger students and beginners, wakeboarding is a preferred option because the feet are attached to the board, making it easier to get up and out of the water at a slower speed. It can be done behind any single engine boat that is less than 30 feet in length.

Wakesurfing, Liesmann noted, is the fastest growing trend in water sports. With people of all ages drawn to the sport, wake surfing requires a specific vessel designed for this purpose. The correct instruction, boat setting, and equipment, Liesmann said, determines the outcome of the success in learning and mastering it. "Wakesurfing is done at a slower speed with less impact, but is challenging and provides a great workout," he added. "It's more social as the rider is situated much closer to the boat."

Wakefoiling, which you may have seen around the Lake, places the rider higher above the water. It's basically a wake-surf board with a long mast shaft attached to an airplane wing type device. Performed slow and with no impact, Liesmann said it provides the rider with the sensation of snowboarding through deep powder snow. "It's a very freeing sensation and is quiet, with no drag or vibration," he said.

For those warriors looking to master the sports on their own, Liesmann has some advice. First and foremost, go with someone who knows what they're doing. What you naturally think you should do, he explained, is often the complete opposite of what should be done. In addition, make sure the rider is wearing a coast guard approved vest that fits properly. For wakeboarding, make sure you are using a wakeboard specific rope and handle, Making sure the board is the correct size is determined by the fit of the boots.



Safety is a major component of lessons at Kirby's School of Wake.



Those of all ages can benefit from lessons and instruction.



A student gets a smile and fist bump from Liesmann.



Whether you are a beginner or looking to learn the most difficult tricks, Kirby's School of Wake can help.

In all sports, the driver is critical to the success of the outcome. Slow and steady is the way to go, Liesmann said. Contrary to what many believe, drivers don't need to hit the throttle hard and pop the rider up and out of the water. A slower approach, he said, provides the rider with more control, better balance, and ultimately less injury when first learning. For the rider, the three critical points to remember is to keep the arms straight, knees bent, and let the boat pull you up. "People think they need to do all the work," Liesmann said. "When trying to get up on anything, let the boat do the work. Go in with the mindset that it may be difficult and will take some time. Above all, remain calm."

In the State of Missouri, a spotter on board is not necessary as long as the vessel is equipped with a 14-inch rear view mirror. For safety purposes, Liesmann said it is advised to have another person on board during the busier times on the water.

For the newest and youngest of beginners, Liesmann uses a Zup Board for instruction. Ideal for those of all ages, this sled like board is perfect for anyone who wants to build their confidence and get the feel of being pulled behind a boat. Liesmann's own daughter mastered the Zup Board before she was two years old. Liesmann also uses a BB Talk and Intercom system for his instruction that allows him to communicate directly with the rider while driving the boat. "We are in sync at all times and this leads to a high degree of success and fulfillment," he said.

"I would not be able to do the things that I do in wakeboarding and my business without the support of the powerful partnerships I have, and the support of my family and community," Liesmann said. "I am so very thankful for their support."

---

For more information call 573-694-0640 or visit [kirbyschoolofwake.com](http://kirbyschoolofwake.com)



Take the cold water plunge on February 22 and show your support for local Special Olympics Missouri athletes.

GEORGE DENNY

### February 12

#### Xtreme Bingo at Horny Toad's/Camden on the Lake

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Free to play

\*Offered every Wednesday.

### February 13-16

#### Overland Park Boat Show

Overland Park Convention Center

Visit [www.OverlandParkBoatShow.com](http://www.OverlandParkBoatShow.com) for information.

### February 13

#### Spools & Needles Group

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Camden County Museum

Free of charge

\*Offered every Thursday.

### February 14

#### Mobile Food Pantry

1 - 3 p.m.

The Church at Osage Hills

Free of charge

\*Offered the second Friday of every month.

### February 21 - 22

#### Home, Business and Lake Living Expo 2025

3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Regalia Hotel and Conference Center

"The place to be" for the latest innovations, offerings, and ideas related to personal and business services as well as in the home building, landscaping, and remodeling industries. Free of Charge

### February 22

#### 2025 Lake of the Ozarks Polar Bear Strut

10 a.m.

Public Beach #2, Lake of the Ozarks State Park

A unique opportunity to support local Special Olympics Missouri athletes by walking, running, or crawling a 5K despite the cold weather. This event promises a fun atmosphere with music, fun, and lasting memories.

Participants must raise a minimum of \$50 by event day.

Visit [somo.org](http://somo.org) for information.

### February 22

#### 2025 Lake of the Ozarks Polar Plunge

2 p.m.

Public Beach #2, Lake of the Ozarks State Park

Show your bravery as you walk, run, or crawl into the frigid water to support your local Special Olympics Missouri athletes. In 2024, the Lake of the Ozarks Plunge raised more than \$99,500 with 281 participants taking the plunge.

Visit [support.somo.org](http://support.somo.org) for information.

### February 22

#### Lake of the Ozarks Mardi Gras Pub Crawl

4 p.m. - Midnight

Multiple venues in the Lake area  
Come out for some Mardi Gras fun at the LOZ Mardi Gras Pub Crawl.

Buses will run from 4 p.m. to midnight and there are other transportation options in the area.

Visit [www.LakePubCrawl.com](http://www.LakePubCrawl.com) for details.

**February 27-March 2**

**St. Charles Boat Show**

St. Charles Convention Center  
Visit [www.StCharlesBoatShow.com](http://www.StCharlesBoatShow.com) for information.

**March 1**

**7th Annual Whobilation 5K**

Hosted by Tri-County YMCA of the Ozarks  
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Tri County YMCA  
This Dr. Seuss themed fun family race is a celebration of a favorite children's author. Enjoy a morning of fitness, community, and Seuss-style brunch.  
\$35  
Call 573-348-9230 for information.

**March 29**

**2025 Rotary Winterfest**

The Lodge of Four Seasons  
This event benefits more than 40 local organizations and raises nearly \$100,000 annually. This year's theme, "The Magic of Rotary" will include dinner, entertainment, and a silent and live auction.  
Sponsorships are available.  
For information visit [daybreakrotary.org](http://daybreakrotary.org)  
For tickets visit <http://winterfest2025.givesmart.com> for information.

The Lake of the Ozarks Mardi Gras Pub Crawl will take place on February 22 |

GEORGE DENNY



Fun for all ages will be had at the Annual Dogwood Festival. GEORGE DENNY

**April 12**

**2025 Bridge and Dam Half Marathon, 5K, 10K, 25K**

7:30 a.m.  
Bagnell Dam Strip  
Brought to you by FundRuns and the Lake of the Ozarks Runners, this event benefits Lake area charities.  
All registrants will receive a t-shirt and all finishers will receive a medal.  
\$45 and up  
Visit <https://www.halfmarathons.net/missouri-bridge-and-dam-half-marathon-10K/> for information.

**April 24 - 26**

**74th Annual Dogwood Festival**

Times vary  
Downtown Camdenton  
Enjoy student showcases, food and craft vendors, dinner theater, garage and bake sales, pageants, a carnival, parade, and so much more.  
Visit [CamdentonChamber.com](http://CamdentonChamber.com) for full event details.  
Visit <http://camdentonchamber.com/dogwood-festival/> for events, hours, and event applications.

**April 25**

**LOCC Corvettes in Paradise**

Margaritaville Resort  
A day filled with sleek cars and fun.  
Presented by the Lake of the Ozarks Corvette Club.

**April 25 - 27**

**Spring In-Water Boat Show**

Presented by Lake of the Ozarks Marine Dealers Association  
Dog Days Bar & Grill  
1 p.m.  
This is the Lake's largest and longest-running show. Numerous Lake area marinas will be there with all sizes and types of vessels. A large vendor and exhibitor display can help with all your dock and accessory needs.  
Visit [www.lakeozarkboatdealers.com](http://www.lakeozarkboatdealers.com)



# Ozarks

## ON THE ROCKS

By JAN WILEY | Photos submitted

After retiring from the workforce in 2019, Jan and her husband Greg decided it was now or never to buy a vacation home at the Lake of the Ozarks. They found the perfect property just outside of Laurie. They enjoy spending time on their deck, watching the activity on the water and enjoying the beautiful sunsets. One day Jan said to her husband, “Shouldn’t we be enjoying a cocktail about now?”

Jan had zero experience in mixing or creating cocktails, but started spending time researching online. All of her recipes are original creations. Knowing that presentation is almost as important as taste, she went to work. Jan refers to herself as a “Cocktail Hobbyist,” with plenty of family, friends, and neighbors willing to serve as taste testers.

You can follow Jan and her recipes on her Facebook page titled Ozarks On The Rocks.



# Ozarks

## ON THE ROCKS RECIPES



### A FEW APPETIZER RECIPES TO ENJOY WITH YOUR COCKTAIL

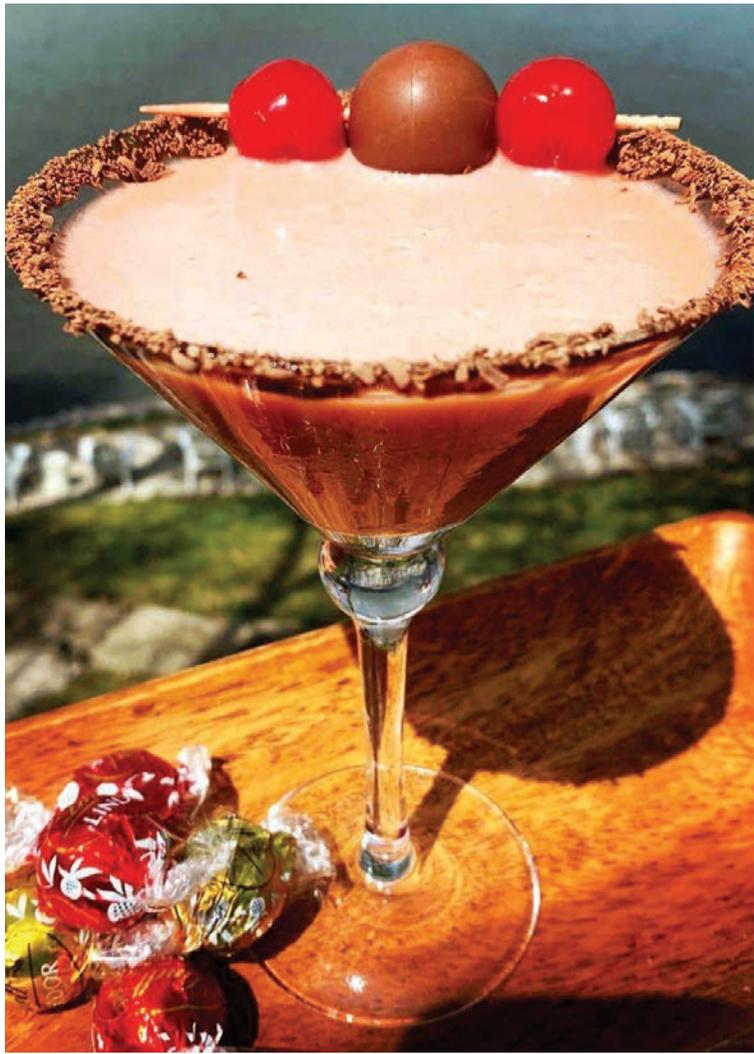
#### STUFFED MEDJOO DATES:

In a mixing bowl add 1/2 cup crumbled Feta Cheese, 1 tbsp Olive Oil, 1 tbsp Pineapple Juice, 2 tbsp Crushed Pineapple (drained), 1 tbsp Fresh Parsley (finely chopped), dash of salt and black pepper. Mix well and spoon into pitted Medjool Dates. Top with additional chopped parsley. Should make about 10 appetizers.

#### APRICOT SWEET AND HEAT BITES:

Place a tsp or so of whipped cream cheese on top of a whole dried apricot. Place a toasted pecan or english walnut in the cream cheese and drizzle with hot honey.





### DARK CHOCOLATE CHERRY-TINI:

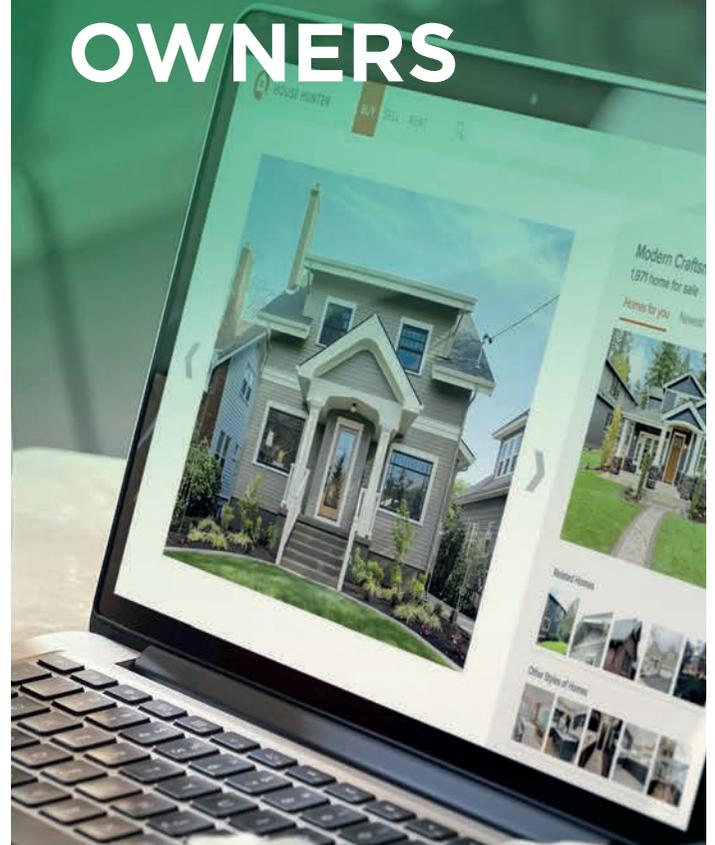
First chill your glass in the freezer for just a bit. Remove and dip in chocolate syrup and then shaved chocolate. In a shaker with ice add 40ml Cherry Liqueur, 40 ml Dark Chocolate Liqueur, 30 ml Malibu Rum and 50 ml Coconut Milk. Shake until well chilled and strain into your glass. Garnish with cherries and a Lindor truffle.

### IRISH MUDSLIDE:

In a blender add 1.5 ozs each Irish Whiskey, Kahlua, and Baileys Irish Cream. Add 3 ozs Half & Half, 1 cup or so of crushed ice, and 3-4 drops of green food coloring. Blend until smooth and pour into your glasses. Garnish with some whipped cream, chocolate syrup, and a few green sprinkles.



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# LAKE MEDIA *Gives Back*

**L**ake Media held a clothing drive for winter wear in December for Lake area kids. Donation boxes were placed at the Lake Media office in Osage Beach, as well as the Osage Beach Walmart. We are extremely grateful to those who donated and can't thank you enough.

Because of the generosity of the community, we were able to distribute 291 warm weather clothing items to kids in need. Items collected include winter coats, winter boots, hats, gloves and mittens, socks, pajamas, sweatpants and sweatshirts, and more.

Items were given to Lake of the Ozarks Idiots Club members who delivered them to the Camden-ton Clothes Closet. The Clothes Closet will ensure items will be given to kids in various schools that need them.



Members of the Lake Media staff pose with Jerry and Jane Seifert, members of the Lake of the Ozarks Idiots Club. The Seifert's are original members dating back to 2014. Pictured left to right: Jordyn Wilson, Barb Deitrick, Marie Krolkowski, Jerry Seifert, Jane Seifert, and Sam Kombrink

Because of your donations, our kiddos will be a little warmer this winter. We have a wonderful community at the Lake, and we all know it often takes a village.



## THE PLACE TO PROMOTE... YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICES

We are the local publication for local businesses and services. No matter how large or small, we have ad sizes and rates to get the attention you deserve. Reach out to one of our Marketing Specialists and see how we can help you!



### Candace Williams

Candace has been the Marketing Consultant for Lake Media since March of 2016. Meeting new people in the community, combined with the experience and career growth the position has provided, is what makes her job meaningful to her. Her role, Candace said, has enabled her to build trustworthy bonds and friendships with local leaders. Her attributes, which includes being friendly, trust worthy, and knowledgeable in print and digital media, has been the foundation of her success.

When not working, Candace enjoys family time with her daughter and grandsons, traveling, and outdoor activities such as motorcycle riding and golf.

Please reach out to McKayla for all your advertising questions and needs.

**Candace Williams**  
Marketing Consultant  
573-569-5851

### McKayla Williams

McKayla started her career as a sales assistant in May of 2022. In 2023, she became the Marketing Assistant for Lake Media and the Eldon Advertiser. A favorite aspect of her job, McKayla said, is meeting new people and the amazing relationships she builds with them.

In her spare time, McKayla enjoys spending time outdoors with her family exploring new sights, and watching her son's participate in sports and achieve their goals. Practicing with them to help them improve their skills is also a favorite pastime. As a family, they also enjoy cruising trails in their side by side and vacations. Please reach out to McKayla for all your advertising questions and needs.

**McKayla Williams**  
Marketing Assistant  
573-569-8259

# People *in* Places

Photos by GEORGE DENNY

## FALL HARBOR HOP

OCTOBER 12

Players tested their luck while enjoying the fall foliage at the Lake of the Ozarks Fall Harbor Hop. More than 40 locations around the Lake area participated in making a winning poker hand. Prizes were won for first through fifth place, the four worst hands, and a random drawing for 10 additional hands.



Sean Dolven, Brett Sandholm



Maraya Brokaw, Kari White, Jillian Slander



Chad and Heather Karns



Teri Yount, Hilda Garth, Amie Ware



Dennis Fetter, Kellie Capps



Sherry Ritter Heinen, Deborah Schieferle, Janet Lampe Fowler



David Hammack, Nancy Allison, Tommy Hammack



Todd and Kendra Maschmeier



Ron and Jodie Watson



Kim and Rick Miller

# People *in* Places

Photos by GEORGE DENNY

## 23RD ANNUAL CITIZENS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (CADV) BRUNCH

OCTOBER 16

Some 800 business and community leaders attended the "Back to Prom" brunch held at the Regalia Hotel & Conference Center. The event offered food, entertainment, and auctions, and raised an impressive \$182,000. CADV provides a wide range of free and confidential services to local victims of domestic and sexual abuse. This is the most significant fundraiser held yearly for the organization.



Jan Dodge, Ann and Chelsea Klimkewicz, Tammy Scheiter, Paige Rowe, Aven Estrada



Brandon Barnett, Nicole Paraschak



Alex Sanchez, Joey Vaughn



Jill Quaid, Amanda Angell



Madalyn Page, Ashlea McQuillen



Brian and Landree Hills



David Shipp, Michelle Cook



Dylan and Jessica Morgan



Paula Gibbs, Monica Gust



Kathy Doerhoff, Cheryl Linn

# People in Places

Photos by GEORGE DENNY

## HALLOWEEN ON THE STRIP

OCTOBER 26

Ghosts and Goblins of all ages turned out for the annual Halloween on the Strip event. Participants enjoyed trick or treating at participating businesses, games at Luby's Plaza, a cookie walk, and a costume contest.



Beckett Humphrey, Kaleb Townsend, Zoey Townsend, Kaylee Townsend (stroller), and Ashlyn Humphrey



Konner and Aonesti Garnett



Shanna and Ruger Baker



Mary and Piper Van Houton



Lyndsay, Kime and Dally Witt



Breckon and Bristol Anthony



Landon, Deborah, and Raven Rogers



Jolie, Lacey, and Bodie King



Halley Burton, Emily Leon, Eli and Micheal Winters



Ryleigh, Baylie, Joshua, and Hailea Russell

Photos by GEORGE DENNY

NOVEMBER 9

Wonderland Camp's big gala and fundraiser was held in November at Margaritaville Lake Resort. The carnival themed event featured entertainment by Phat Mike & The Bartenders, drinks, food, games, and both a live and silent auction. Wonderland Camp provides a fun, inclusive and safe camp experience for children, teens, and adults who have disabilities. It also provides a respite from daily caregiving for their family and caregivers.



Kylee Sally, Madalyn Page, Aveleen and Monica Pitts



Jill Wilke, Megan Mertensmeyer, Mike Clayton



Yvette Hammond, Garrett Jackson



Kim and Rob Kucsik



Katie and Jeff Karr, Mike Clayton



Michelle and Jason Hildebrand



Chris and Alane Colter



Alanna Dougan, Matt McKinnon



Kaelyn English, Haley Weir, Sophie Gay



Mark Jadwin, Scott Lawrence



Kerry and Elmo Willoughby



Abbey Cordia, Wyatt Stampe

# LAKE OF THE OZARKS MARINE DEALERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 3

The Exchange in Camdenton played host to the LOMDA annual event. Entertained with a casino theme, those in attendance enjoyed dinner, cocktails, games, music, and the opportunity to get together and socialize with other LOMDA members.



Susie Sapp, Roger Hulett,  
Beth Worsham



Dave and Connie Weyer



Darrell Law, Skyler and Alex  
Thompson



Angela's Lake Catering



Justin and Leah Martin



Mo and Bob May



Dan, State A Mind, and Iguana



John and Carolyn Simoneau, Alick  
Rowland from Bear Trailers



Garrett Houseman, Dan Bowman,  
John Odom



Marty's Marine, Candace Williams



Philip Pfundstien, Katelyn Merritt



Dana and Kyle Hughes

# People *in* Places

Photos by GEORGE DENNY

## LAKE OF THE OZARKS EAGLE DAYS

JANUARY 4

This annual event returned for its 25th year at the Lake. Over 50 area businesses and organizations came together to make this educational and entertaining event possible and free to attend.



Kathy Binkley, Kim Smith from Dickerson Zoo



Steve and Brenda Myers



Paige Schneider, Holly Bagsby,  
Patriot the Eagle



Kathie Bishop, Darlene Andres, Fran  
Parise



Ed and Linda Swanson, Ed Thompson



Reece and Beau Rodden



Josh Frederick, John Hayes  
from Troop 21



Earl Farney, A.J. Grant



Genevieve Wilcox, Brooke Grant



Hailey Hullett, Lyla, Easton and  
Jayde Linton



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# Where expert knowledge and familiar faces meet.

From shorelines to county lines, our care stretches to every corner of the lake region. And our people are proud to call this place home. No wonder trauma surgeon and School of the Osage alumnus, Dr. Jacob Quick, decided to return to serve his friends and neighbors where he grew up. He understands the importance of commitment. In fact, he has dedicated himself to expanding the capabilities of Lake Regional to deliver expert care to his hometown.

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REGIONAL  
HEALTH SYSTEM

**OUR  
COMMITMENT  
RUNS  
DEEP**

