READER'S GUIDE *to* USING *this* PUBLICATION

Your fishing map guide is a thorough, easy-to-use collection of accurate contour lake maps along with geographic and biologic statistical information to help you locate a lake and enjoy a successful day out on the water of one of Wisconsin's excellent fisheries.

The heart of this book is the **contour lake map**. Copyrighted maps are used with permission from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and are not intended for navigation. The lakes selected for this guide are confined to those that are accessible to the public.

Each map is accompanied by a **detailed write-up**. In each piece, you'll find fishing tips and hot spots specific to the body of water you're planning to fish.

Lake **stocking records** and **management comments** are provided courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and summarized to reflect management trends and objectives for each fishery represented. Please keep in mind that annual fish stocking aspirations are directly affected by state hatchery production levels and sometimes the numbers available for stocking fluctuate considerably.

Detailed **area road maps** and **lake access** information is provided to help you plan your route to the lake. If there is more than one access point on a body of water, the GPS coordinates refer to the primary access. To locate a lake on these road maps, simply use the alphabetical lake listing on the back cover. Turn to that page to find the area road map page and coordinates for the lake. As a cross-reference, the area road maps include numbers on or adjacent to featured lakes, which designate the pages of the lake maps and information. Streams and rivers are also referenced in these area road maps.

While every effort is made to create the most accurate maps possible, the process of merging existing DNR maps with the latest GPS information will cause some slight differences to occur. (Especially on larger, more complicated lakes.) Please use the GPS grids provided in this book only as a guideline.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Gill net: This is the main piece of equipment used for sampling walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, cisco, whitefish, trout, and salmon. The standard gill net is 6 feet tall by 250 feet long, with 5 different mesh sizes. Gill nets are generally set in off shore areas in water deeper than 9 feet. Nets are fished for a period of 24 hours. Fish are captured by swimming into the net and becoming entangled. Fisheries workers record length and weight data from each fish, determine the sex, look for parasites or disease, and remove several of the fishes scales for determining the fishes age. Most of the fish taken in gill nets are killed, but only a small portion of the lakes fish population is sampled during an individual survey event. The number of gill nets set during a survey is dependant on the lake acreage.

Trap net: This is the main piece of equipment used for sampling bluegill, crappie, and bullheads. The standard trap net is 4 feet tall by 6 feet wide with a 40 foot lead. Trap nets are generally set perpendicular to shore in water less than 8 feet in depth. Nets are fished for a period of 24 hours. Fish are captured by swimming into the lead and following it towards the trap. Most of the fish collected in trap nets are returned back to the water as soon as the necessary biological data is recorded. The number of trap net sets during a survey is dependant on the lake acreage.

Electrofishing: This is a specialized type of equipment that is most often used for sampling largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and young of the year walleye. A boat-mounted generator is used to induce electrical current into the water that stuns the fish, allowing fisheries workers to net the fish for placement in live wells. Most of the fish caught by electrofishing recover rapidly and are promptly returned to the water after the necessary biological data is recorded.

CPUE: An acronym representing "Catch Per Unit of Effort," a way of representing the density of a species population. Readings are in fish captured per hour or minute of surveying. The higher the CPUE value, the greater the number of fish present.

PSD: An acronym for "Proportional Stock Density," which is a way of representing the size structure of fish populations. It represents the percentage of "quality-size" fish within a given population. In arriving at this figure, one considers only fish of "stock" length (the size at which members of a given species reach sexual maturity) or greater. Young-of year fish are not included in the calculation. The higher the PSD number, the greater the percentage of "quality" fish within a particular population.

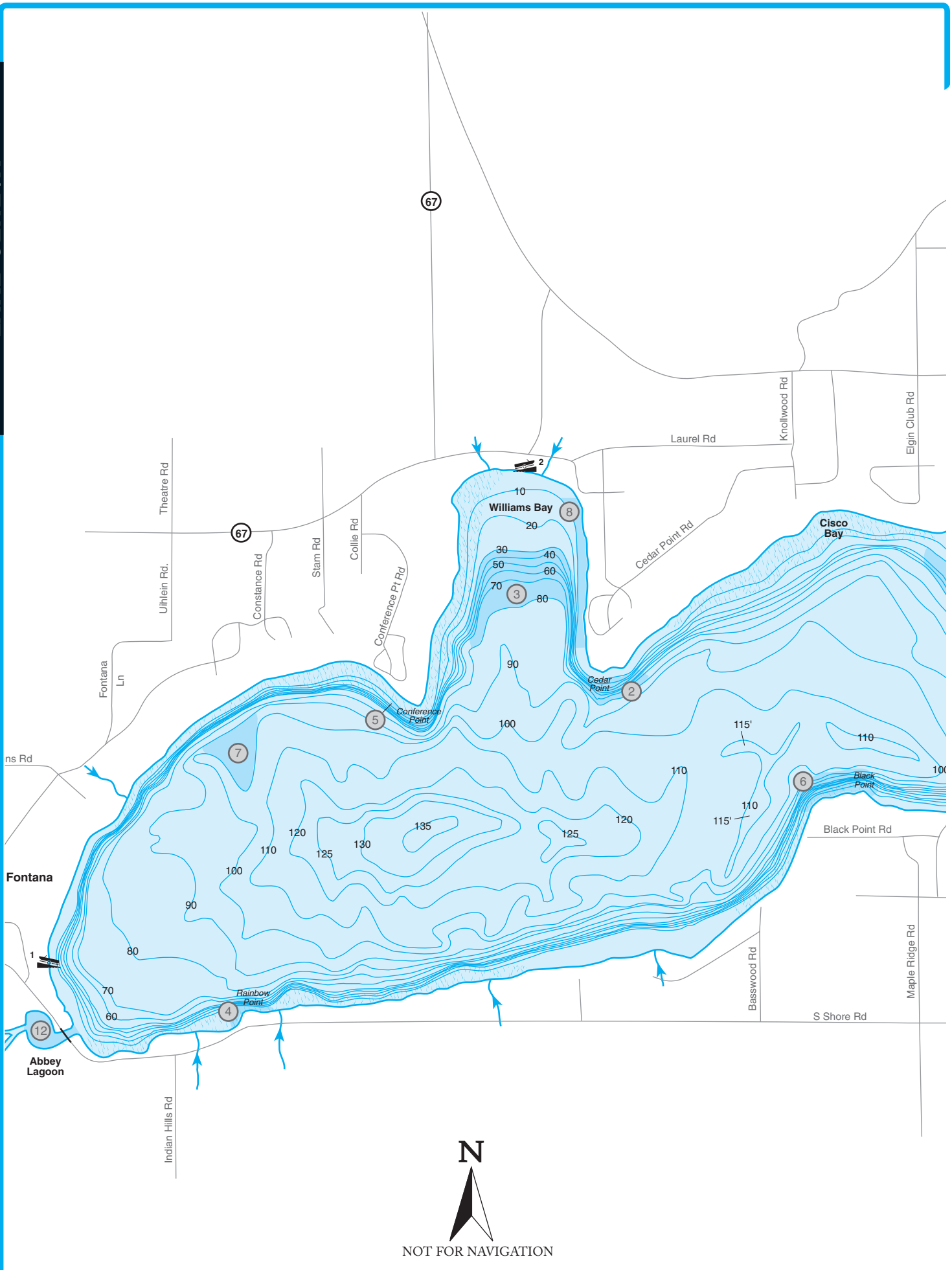
RSD-12 (or -10 or -14, etc.): An acronym for "Relative Stock Density," which is yet another way of representing the size structure of fish populations. This corresponds to the percentage of fish at a given length or larger within a population. Hence, an RSD-14 reading of 25 for largemouth bass indicates that 25 percent of sexually mature bass are at least 14 inches in length. On another measurement scale, the RSD- values could be stated as "preferred," "memorable," or "trophy."

YAR: An acronym for "Young-(to)-Adult Ratio." This refers to the proportion of young-of-year fish in relation to adult or "quality-size" fish within a particular population. For balanced populations, the index should be about 1-to-10. In smaller waters, 1-to-3 is considered a reasonable ratio.

Secchi Disk: Used in measuring water clarity, it is a white-colored, plate-size device submerged on the end of a line until it reaches a point where it's no longer visible; the depth at which this occurs is measured and recorded. In this book, secchi disk readings are given in English measure. Of course, many factors influence water clarity, and secchi disk readings vary according to season, growth of vegetation, weather, location in a lake, even human activity. Hence the readings given are approximations for any lake—snapshots of the water clarity at a given time and in a given location.

LEGEND

- Boat Ramp
- Carry Down Access
- Access by Navigable Chann
- Portage Access
- Access Information Marker
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Fishing Dock (Pier)
- Shore Fishing
- Fish Attractors
- Boat tie-up
- Marina
- Lily Pads
- Submergent Vegetatic
- Emergent Vegetation
- Stumps
- Flooded Timber
- Rocks
- Submerged Culvert
- Submerged Ruins
- Marsh
- Emergent Vegetation
- Manmade Canal
- Marked Fishing Spots
- Submerged Rail
- Submerged Road
- Bridge
- Submerged Riverbed
- GPS Grid
- Red & Green Channel Buoys
- White Hazard Buoy
- River Mile
- Daymarker
- Light & Daymarker
- County Road
- State Highway
- US Highway
- Interstate



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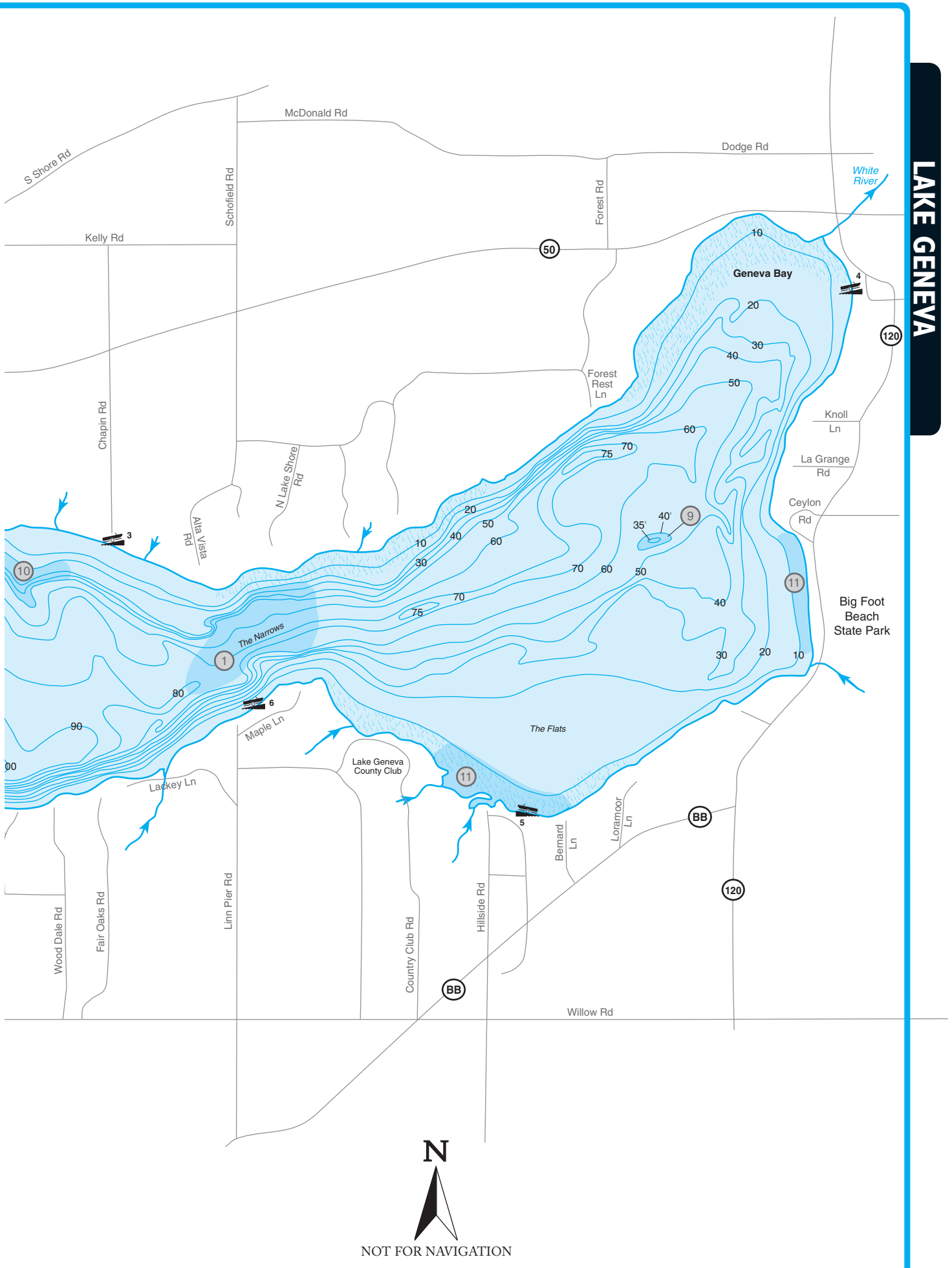
NOT FOR NAVIGATION

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USGS



LAKE GENEVA *Walworth County*

Area map page / coordinates: 26 / E-1, 26 / E-2, 26 / D-2
Accommodations: boat rental, bait & tackle, campground, resorts

Surface water area: 5,262 acres
Shorelength: 20.2 miles
Maximum depth: 135 feet
Mean depth: 61 feet

Secchi disk (water clarity): NA
Water color: clear

Lake type: spring
Littoral bottom types: NA
Basic management: trout, walleye, northern pike, panfish

Accessibility: 1) Trailer Launch 42° 33' 7.85" N / 88° 34' 21.48" W
Accessibility: 2) Trailer Launch 42° 34' 41.65" N / 88° 32' 1.25" W
Accessibility: 3) Trailer Launch 42° 34' 24.80" N / 88° 29' 31.62" W
Accessibility: 4) Trailer Launch 42° 35' 22.38" N / 88° 26' 4.97" W
Accessibility: 5) Trailer Launch 42° 33' 24.85" N / 88° 27' 35.24" W
Accessibility: 6) Trailer Launch 42° 33' 52.34" N / 88° 28' 49.84" W

Gamefish								Panfish					Rough Fish					
Muskie	N Pike	Walleye	LM Bass	SM Bass	Trout	Catfish	Sturgeon	B Crappie	W Crappie	Bluegill	Pumpkinseed	Y Perch	Bl Bullhead	Br Bullhead	Y Bullhead	Wh Sucker	Carp	Bowfin
C	C	A	P	A				P		C	P	P				C		

A=Abundant C=Common P=Present

FISHING INFORMATION

Lake Geneva is a unique southern Wisconsin lake managed for both cool- and cold-water fish species. Brian Gates, owner of Geneva Lake Bait and Tackle Inc., 2885 State Road 67, Williams Bay, WI 53191, (262) 245-6150, says last year a 7-pound, 12-ounce rainbow was the only one he saw caught all year. This is because the DNR hasn't stocked rainbows in Geneva since 1990, making the ones present quite large. Browns, on the other hand, have been doing really well, but, says Gates, they are usually targeted only if anglers aren't finding lake trout. Brook trout are present, but are again, few and far between, like their rainbow cousins.

What really shines about Geneva are the cool-water fish that inhabit the lake. Northern pike, smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, bluegill, crappie, and perch are the most common species. Gates says the northern pike sizes have gone down since the implementation of a 32-inch minimum size restriction, but numbers have been improving with lots of 27- and 28-inch fish being caught. Walleyes continue to be night biters. For them, Gates recommends trolling over weedbeds with a No. 10 Rapala in a bluegill pattern, but black, purple, and yellow also work well. If that doesn't work, he suggests trying a No. 16 Rapala trolled on the weed edges in the same color patterns.

Smallmouths continue to be a draw for anglers fishing Lake Geneva. Gates says the numbers and sizes are improving, with more fish running in the 18- to 21-inch range, although most will be from 10 to 17 inches. Live bait or a tube jig, depending upon water temperature, are what the local guides use. If experience is on your side, try a drop shot with a 4-inch rubber worm. Largemouth numbers are down, but size usually runs 16 to 19 inches.

FISH STOCKING DATA

year	species	size	# released
96	Brown Trout	Fingerling	6,000
96	Lake Trout	Fingerling	11,800
97	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	5,000
97	Lake Trout	Large Fingerling	12,500
97	Lake Trout	Yearling	33,000
97	Walleye	Large Fingerling	45,400
98	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	3,000
98	Lake Trout	Large Fingerling	20,000
99	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	3,000
99	Lake Trout	Large Fingerling	20,000
99	Walleye	Small Fingerling	529,100
00	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	3,000
00	Lake Trout	Large Fingerling	12,000
01	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	16,000
01	Walleye	Small Fingerling	275,415
02	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	14,302
02	Lake Trout	Large Fingerling	18,084
03	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	12,000
03	Lake Trout	Large Fingerling	22,949
03	Walleye	Small Fingerling	247,369
04	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	12,000
04	Lake Trout	Large Fingerling	25,913
05	Brown Trout	Yearling	4,412
05	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	12,000
05	Lake Trout	Large Fingerling	31,122
05	Walleye	Small Fingerling	238,132

The panfish are very noteworthy in Geneva. Gates says the bluegills are running 8 to 8.5 inches. The crappies can be big, but have to be figured out before they can be caught. In the spring, fish the crappies right up under the piers with a pinky jig tipped with a minnow. During other times of the year, fish deep, in 30 to 35 feet of water. Anglers that are consistent are in deep water with a 2-inch smoke and sparkle tube bait with a 1/32-ounce jig. The perch continue to come out of Geneva in keeper sizes. Gates says spring and late fall are the times to find these, as summer can get slow. He says to fish 5 to 7 feet of water for these fish.

Gates says the cisco population is down from what it used to be, but they are coming back. Before, anglers would locate 25-acre schools of ciscoes, but today it's more like half-acre schools of the fish. The white bass population is also down. "You only hear about a few being caught each year," says Gates. He feels this has something to do with zebra mussels and how they are changing the fishery found in Lake Geneva.

Because of the water clarity, weedlines in Geneva can be as deep as 17 feet in some places. These deep weedlines are good places to find a variety of fish, depending upon the season, species, and, essentially temperatures. Some sand grass can also be found in the 35-foot waters, and this is a good place to locate some walleyes.

During the summer, "The Narrows" **(Spot 1)** are good places to catch some ciscoes. Catch them on a spoon with a downrigger, or jig them violently with a Hopkins spoon. In winter, fish off Cedar Point **(Spot 2)** or in Williams Bay **(Spot 3)** with a Rat Finkie and shiner in 40 to 80 feet of water.

In May, says Gates, lakers can best be taken on Bangtails with a silver blade and pearl body right off the pier at the Fontana access site on the lake's west end. In June, fish for largemouths around Rainbow Point **(Spot 4)**.

Come July and August, a bit more persistence is required to catch lakers, says Gates. He suggests trolling silver spoons or Fin Doctor spoons – the large ones – under downriggers in deep water, off Conference Point **(Spot 5)**, Black Point **(Spot 6)**, and in The Narrows. There's also a 95-foot hole on the northwest, **(Spot 7)**, where lakers suspend. In September, troll the same areas more slowly with downriggers. In winter, fish the lakers in the same areas or around Cedar Point.

Northern pike fishing also can be a real kick around Cedar Point. Gates says you'll find good-size pike, but there are many sub-legal fish caught, as well. In fact, there are so many that anglers can go out and catch 25 fish measuring 22 to 25 inches in four hours. Locals have nicknamed the whole east shore of Williams Bay "Northern Alley" **(Spot 8)** for good reason. Gates says you can do really well by slowly back-trolling Lindy rigs in 30 to 60 feet of water. In the fall, when the water temperatures hit 63 degrees for two or three days, the northerns congregate like mad off Fontana Beach, says Gates. Use live bait and fish in about 16 feet of water.

A hump in the east bay **(Spot 9)** and a deep breakline just west of The Narrows **(Spot 10)** are good places to take walleyes in the spring and fall. Don't neglect the steep sides of Conference Point when looking for these fish. They gather in the fall here to intercept spawning ciscoes. They can be taken using large minnows or Rapalas in 5 to 15 feet of water. The steep, rocky shoreline of Cedar Point will hold walleyes from post-spawn into early summer. They can be taken on spinners and jigs.

In June, the rocks off Cedar Point become a hot spot for smallmouth bass. Fish the warming water with golden roaches or fatheads, says Gates, or use perch-pattern jigs until the water temperature hits 62 degrees. Of course, the majority of Geneva's shoreline is good smallie habitat; find gravel, says Gates, and you'll find bass with crayfish-pattern lures.

The flats near Lake Geneva Country Club **(Spots 11)** are good bass producers, as is Abbey Lagoon **(Spot 12)** on the lake's western end. Fish the largemouths at night on "noisy stuff," Gates advises, or with rubber worms. Hula Poppers are also a wise choice.

Fish for crappies on the breaks and drops with small minnows. The 'gills aren't large, but they're numerous. Catch them by drifting The Narrows with crawlers. Pumpkinseeds up to 9-plus inches can be taken on crawlers in Geneva Bay.

Rainbow, brown, and brook trout compose a "bonus" fishery on Geneva. In fact, a state record 18-pound, 5-3/4-ounce brownie was caught "accidentally" on a jig by someone fishing for bass. Fish for the trout off Black Point **(Spot 6)** in 40 feet of water in July.

Public access is fairly good with launch sites on the west, north, northeast, and southeast sides of the lake. In addition, there are several private sites available to accommodate virtually any size boat.

Lake Geneva is prime water located only a tankful of gas away from three major cities: Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago. As expected, recreational use of the lake is pretty heavy. Want accommodations? Make reservations. Want to launch your boat? Arrive at the launch sites early, as in 4:30 a.m., in order to get a parking spot.

In addition, make sure to have plenty of cash to finance your fishing trip, or make certain you haven't left home without plenty of plastic. Why? Many hotels in the vicinity charge around $180 a night. Of course, there are cabins for only $500 a week, but those are only available by reservation. Meals (outside of your typical fast food) and services aren't cheap, either.

While it's true, there's heavy fishing and recreational pressure, because of stocking and catch and release, the fishery is as good now as it ever has been. Lake Geneva requires a little extra effort, but the fishing can make it all seem worth while.