



Stockton Lake Guide 2022

A special supplement to the **Cedar County Republican**
 Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Welcome to the lake, where the fun awaits!

By **Kathryn Skopec**
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The seven wonders of the world may be scattered across the globe, but a 24,900-acre slice of serenity is located right here in the heart of Cedar County.

Stockton Lake was created when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a dam across the Sac River near Stockton in 1970. Since then, it has continued to create a defining impact on locals and visitors alike.

The teal blue waters of Stockton Lake, which boasts 298 miles of shoreline, is a defining feature of the city of Stockton. The lake brings over 1.3 million people a year to the city and offers bounties of outdoor recreation and resources for the public — and wildlife — to enjoy.

Its waters are home to several species of fish including small and large-mouth bass, crappie, white bass, walleye and catfish, to name a few examples.

Stockton Lake and Dam also provides hydroelectric power, as well as flood damage reduction, water supply storage, fish and wildlife management, downstream water quality improvement, and navigation flow supplementation.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has the responsibility for managing approximately 61,000 acres of land and water at Stockton Lake. Additionally, the Missouri Department of Conservation assists the Corps by managing 16,572 acres under a lease agreement.

Stockton Lake provides flood protection for downstream areas and is part of a network of Corps of Engineer Lakes that help



An ambient sunset rests over boaters near the Stockton Dam. STAFF PHOTO/KATHRYN SKOPEC

control flooding in the Missouri and Mississippi River basins.

Stockton Dam provides hydroelectric power that is marketed through the United States Department of Energy, Southwestern Power Administration.

A portion of the lake storage is used to provide water to city utilities of Springfield, which, in turn supplies water to the community.

On Stockton Lake, you

can fish, kayak, sail, scuba dive, cliff jump, hike or bike along the trails, swim to your heart's content, skydive, camp and hunt. While these are key lake goer favorites, the possibilities run for miles.

Continue reading through the CCR's 2022 Lake Guide to discover all the gems and opportunities Stockton Lake has to offer — if you're not currently lounging on a pontoon boat, that is.



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Where to eat in the lake area

The Stockton Lake area has a wide selection of dining venues — from foodie-famous burgers to authentic Mexican food. Local eateries include:

- Amvets Post 116, four miles west of the square — Friday night dinners at 6 p.m.
- Boathouse Restaurant and Lounge, 16100 S. Highway 39, Stockton — lunch and dinner.
- Casey's General Store, 606 South St., Stockton — pizza, deli and more.
- Country Corner Café, 1225 S. Highway 39, Stockton — breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Enrique's Authentic Mexican Grill, 1225 S. Highway 39, Stockton — lunch and dinner.
- Hammon's Emporium, No. 2 Public Square, Stockton — breakfast, lunch and dinner, specialty coffees.
- Hot Spot, 1301 S. Highway 39, Stockton — hot deli, fried chicken.
- Ken's Kafe, 978 N. Highway 39, Arcola — breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Korth Senior Center, 309 W. Englewood Drive, Stockton — lunch.
- No-Wake Café, 18 Mutton Creek Loop, Greenfield — breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Orlean's Trail Restaurant and Lounge, 15828 S. 1525 Road, Stockton — lunch and dinner.
- Simple Simon's Pizza, 600 W. St., Stockton — lunch and dinner, buffet.
- Sonic Drive-In, 1409 S. Highway 39, Stockton — breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Squeeze Inn, 404 RB Road, Stockton — lunch and dinner.
- Stockton State Park Marina Snack Shack, 186100 E. 2000 Road, Stockton — breakfast on weekends and holidays, lunch and dinner.
- Subway, 500 W. Highway 32, Stockton — breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Sundae's Drive-In, 117 RB Road, Stockton — lunch and dinner.
- Wood's Supermarket deli, South Mo. 39, Stockton — breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Woody's Fast Stop, 809 E. Highway 39, Stockton — hot deli and fried chicken.



Sail into summer:

Big events around the lake this year

- Smoke on the water barbecue contest, opening 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16, at the Ray Zumwalt Expo Center at the end of RB Road in Stockton. Barbecue competition, vendors and shopping, live music, food, bounce house, face painting and more.
- Stockton Lake PRCA Rodeo, Friday and Saturday, June 17 and 18, at the Ray Zumwalt Expo Center at the end of RB Road in Stockton.
- Stockton city fireworks display on Saturday, July 2. Fireworks will be set off behind the Stockton school's football field across from Woods Supermarket.
- Stockton Area Chamber of Commerce car show and burnout contest Saturday, Aug. 6.



Shopping around the lake

There are plenty of shopping opportunities in the Stockton Lake area for times when the weather is not cooperating with your outdoor plans — or for times when your lake experience calls for a little extra material. Check out some of these local businesses for your Stockton Lake needs:

Grocery and household

- Casey's General Store, 606 South St., Stockton.
- Deckside Acres, 19896 S. Highway 39, Stockton.
- Dollar General, 314 Walnut St., Stockton
- Hot Spot, 1301 S. Highway 39, Stockton.
- Woody's Fast Stop, 809 E. Highway 32, Stockton.
- Woods Supermarket, South Mo. 39, Stockton.

Gift, décor and floral

- Abbie's Burlap Bucket, 13 Public Square, Stockton.
- Hammon's Emporium, No. 2 Public Square, Stockton.
- LakeCo March, 304 Rb. Road, Stockton.

Antiques

- Alline's Antiques, 509 W. Highway 32, Stockton.

Clothing

- Abbie's Burlap Bucket, 13 Public Square, Stockton.
- Dollar General, 314 Walnut St., Stockton.

Thrift store

- Stockton Area Ministerial Alliance Thrift Store, East Mo. 32, Stockton.

Bait, tackle, boating and ski equipment

- Hot Spot, 1301 S. Highway 39, Stockton

Ice, firewood and camping supplies

- Orlean's Trail Marina, 15828 S. 1525 Road, Stockton.
 - Spurgeon Yachts, 16135 E. Highway 32, Stockton.
 - Steve's Lil Boat Shop, 16105 E. Highway 32, Stockton.
 - Stockton State Park Marina, 186100 E. 2000 Road, Dadeville.
 - The Stables at Stockton Lake RV Park, 15150 S. Highway 39, Stockton.
 - Westside Marine, 16410 S. Highway 39, Stockton.
 - Woods Supermarket.
 - Woody's Fast Stop.
- Visitors can find ice for sale at several locations, including lake area marinas, gas stations and grocery stores, as well as an ice stand at Sundae's Drive-

In, 117 RB Road, Stockton.

Firewood is available at Hot Spot, Woody's Fast Stop and Woods Supermarket. Other camping supplies are available at Woods Supermarket and Dollar General.



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Stockton Lake Missouri

Project Data

Dam Type	Rockshell with impervious core
Length, ft. (overall)	10,700
Height, ft. (maximum above streambed)	131
Width, ft. (crown)	30
Width, ft. (base)	800
Powerhouse	
Generator capacity (megawatts rated)	52.0
Turbine capacity (horsepower rated)	71,800
Labels	
Elevation, feet above sea level:	
Multipurpose pool	887
Flood control pool	890
Storage, acre-feet:	
Multipurpose pool	875,000
Flood control pool	778,000
Surface area, acres:	
Top multipurpose pool	24,700
Top flood control pool	38,300
Drainage area, (square miles)	1,140
Shoreline, miles	298

* One acre-foot equals one acre of water one foot deep or 325,851 gallons

Emergency Numbers

Emergencies	911
Cedar County Sheriff's Office	417-276-5133
Dade County Sheriff's Office	417-637-5344
Polk County Sheriff's Office	417-326-7684

Warning
Due to fluctuations in lake elevations, partially submerged and submerged hazards may be encountered. Boat operators should exercise extreme caution at all times while underway on the lake.

Parks	Facilities															
	Boat Ramp	Picnic Table	Picnic Shelter	Group Picnic Shelter	Phone Area	Toilet	Water Supply	Shower	Laundry	Camping	Fishing Dock	Restroom	Traffic Control Station	Horse Trail	Hiking Trail	Blind/Buff Refuge
Stockton	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Orleans Trail	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Orleans Trail Marsh	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hawker Point	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ruark Bluff East	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ruark Bluff West	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Greenfield	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Multon Creek	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Multon Creek Marina	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Stockton State Park	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
State Park Marina	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cedar Ridge	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
High Point	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Masters	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Crabtree Cove	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

• • • Handicapped Facility Available Maps of individual public use areas are available at the Corps of Engineers office.

Access Points

- a - Sac Valley
- b - Umlerland
- c - Umlerland
- d - Cedar Oaks
- e - Lowe
- f - 3 Hills
- g - Sons Creek
- h - Taylor Heights
- i - Aldrich

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/MDC

In case of emergency

Cedar County 911: For non-emergency situations call the Cedar County Sheriff's Department, (417) 276-5133.

Dade County 911: For non-emergency situations, call the sheriff by dialing (417) 637-5344. The Dade County ambulance can be reached by dialing (417) 637-2911.

Polk County 911: For non-emergency situations, call (417) 777-3911.

Hospitals in Cedar and Polk Counties: Cedar County Memorial Hospital in El Dorado Springs, (417) 876-2511; and Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar, (417) 326-6000.



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MDC offers easy ways to learn about fishing

Fish are mysterious creatures, living as they do under water, often in or near sunken hiding places. Catching them with a fishing pole is a journey into nature's world. Fish fillets cook up nicely, too. The Missouri Department of Conservation connects people with simple and affordable ways to go fishing.

Fishing classes provide hands-on instruction and actual fishing time with help from teachers. Four class sessions in the program give participants the experience and confidence to be successful. MDC also provides a variety of online tips such as how to rig a fishing pole or where to go fishing.

"It's very easy to learn about fishing, especially with our four-lesson plan," John Rittel, MDC community education assistant, said. "We take anglers from the basic fishing skills to some pretty advanced methods. We give instruction, then we go fishing and we make sure everybody catches fish."

Fishing classes are held where a pond or lake is available for fishing. MDC provides all the necessary tackle and bait.

Simple fishing tackle works fine and is affordable. Spin casting rods and reels are easy to use and effective. Good quality fishing poles are available in the \$20 to \$25 price range, Rittel said.

"You can find some pretty decent gear cheap at garage sales," Rittel said. "Many people start out by borrowing from grandpa's tackle box."

MDC also partners with libraries and communities to provide free loaner fishing gear. Fishing poles and tackle boxes are available for check out at partner locations and some MDC offices. To find a location with loaner fishing equipment, visit <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJq>.

Missouri offers lakes and rivers big and small that are open to the public for fishing. Fishable waters are often close to home.

MDC partners with communities to stock urban fishing lakes in parks. MDC conservation areas such as the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit offer well-managed lakes for



The Missouri Department of Conservation offers resources for learning about fishing. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/MDC

fishing. Some conservation areas offer river access, such as the Platte Falls Conservation Area bordering the Platte River in Platte County. Good fishing spots with easy access to shores are found throughout the Kansas City and northwest regions. Some have docks or jetties accessible for those with mobility challenges.

Spring is a good time to go fishing. Species such as crappie, bass, bluegill, and catfish frequent shallow waters with in casting distance. MDC's digital MO

Fishing app lets anglers connect with information about regulations, permits, and places to fish. Connect with the app at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJZ>.

Discover Nature — Fishing classes will be offered in a variety of locations through spring and summer and into autumn. MDC's web page for the program has links to class offerings and links to pages with tips about fishing and how to prepare and cook fish.



Prized lake catch

According to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the following are some of the fish which can be caught by fisherman in Stockton Lake.

- Walleye
- Bluegill
- Largemouth bass
- Spotted bass
- Smallmouth bass
- White bass
- Crappie
- Shad
- Catfish

Stockton Lake has a pond just for children

An area known locally as the Old Mill Pond is officially the Kid's Fishing Pond below the Stockton Dam.

The pond is about 4-1/2 acres surrounded by a one mile multi-purpose trail. The pond is open for kid anglers, as is the trail.

The project was made possible through cooperation between community groups,

the corps and Missouri Department of Conservation.

MDC assisted with the overall design, contributed in-kind labor, materials and supplies.

Rangers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers patrol the pond to ensure safety. The open acreage next to the pond includes ballfields used for youth baseball

Check it out!

Stockton Lake and the city of Stockton are closely tied together when it comes to summer outdoor adventure.

Beginning in June, when schools close for the summer, area youngsters often find themselves enjoying one of the lakes' beaches or swimming along the Sac River.

They also find time to enjoy local waters by boating and fishing.

Stockton Lake is para-

dise for boating and fishing, the Caplinger Mills area and the Sac River also provide plenty of summer fun for the young and those who enjoy the outdoors.

To check out the lake and what it offers, visit either the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website <https://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes/Stockton-Lake/> or the one for Stockton State Park <https://mostateparks.com/park/stockton-state-park->

The two websites provide every piece of information one needs to know about water activities – boating, swimming and fishing, as well as land-based activities such as camping, hiking, trails and wildlife.

To check out the Sac River and its meanderings through the Ozark region for both floating and fishing, go to missouricanoe.org/rivermaps/sac.html.

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Stockton Lake annual fishing prospects report

Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass are proven stocking combination that provides both food and sport-fishing. When stocked in this order and properly managed, these species provide great fishing and good eating.

By Kathryn Skopec
kathryns@cedarrep.com

Fishing prospects for sport fish species will be good this year at Stockton Lake, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation. Gizzard shad production was excellent this year and should continue to support quality game fish populations.

Additionally, crappie fishing should be excellent in 2022 primarily due to a large year class of white crappie in the 10-11.5 inch range.

“Anglers will likely notice an abundance of keeper white crappie throughout 2022,” the MDC said. “Size structure was excellent with 77% of the fish collected in the sample over the 10-inch minimum length limit. Anglers will likely experience good fishing down the road as fish from this large year class continue to grow.”

There also appeared to be a solid year class of black crappie in the sample. Many of the fish from this year class are in the 8.5-10 inch range, the MDC said.

Anglers will likely notice more keeper black crappie throughout the summer and fall as these fish continue to grow. There were very few large white and black crappie (12 + inches) present in this falls trap netting survey. Crappie are often caught using small jigs or minnows around brush structure.

The Corps of Engineers and the Missouri Department of Conservation have created and replenished over 400 fish attractors at Stockton Lake.

In early March of 2021, several fish attractors were created or replenished from High Point boat ramp to the Hwy 245 bridge. Many of the attractors are marked with signs on the lake shore. For those without GPS technology, attractors can be found using a sonar fish finder in 20 feet of water (at lake water elevation of 867) just in front of signs.

The MDC also reports fishing for black bass should be fair to good in 2022. Largemouth bass are the most numerous black bass species in Stockton Lake, especially in the upper portions of the lake.



Spotted bass and small-mouth bass are present throughout the lake, but make up larger percentages of the population in the lower portion of the lake (closer to the dam). A new regulation went into effect on March 1, 2019; the spotted bass minimum length limit was changed from 15 inches to 12 inches.

“Spring flooding has hindered black bass electrofishing efforts on Stockton since 2018,” the MDC said. “Luckily, we were able to conduct black bass electrofishing on both major arms of the lake this spring. largemouth bass catch rates on the Big Sac arm were down from 2018 and slightly below the long-term average. Size structure was good with 24% of the fish sampled over the 15-inch minimum length limit.”

Largemouth Bass on the Little Sac arm were down from 2017 and well below

the long-term average. Size structure was good with 31% of fish over the 15-inch min. length limit.

Walleye fishing should continue to be good in 2022.

Walleyes are stocked in Stockton Lake at 1-2 inches in size and typically grow to 15 inches in two years. In 2012 the Stockton Lake walleye stocking regime was changed from a biennial (every other year) stocking to an annual stocking. Thus, walleye have been stocked in each of the last ten years.

“Fortunately, we have experienced several years of good recruitment on Stockton,” the MDC said. “This should provide anglers with plenty of keeper fish. A surplus of hatchery produced fish allowed for higher stocking rates in 2020 and 2021. These fish will offer catch and release and potentially harvest opportunities in 2022.”

With the increase in stocking rates, anglers might notice an abundance of sublegal walleye in 2022. Electrofishing surveys conducted in the spring of 2021 revealed catch rates slightly below the long-term average. Size structure was good with approximately 83% of the fish sampled at least 15 inches or longer and 11% of fish at least 20 inches or longer.

Techniques used for walleye angling depend upon the time of year and the confidence anglers have with different methods. In the spring and fall, walleye are often found along the dam, in coves, and in more shallow water. Walleye are often caught on suspending jerk baits in these areas.

During the summer season, it is important to fish for walleyes at or around the depth of the thermocline. Walleye are often

caught using nightcrawlers or minnows bounced along the bottom in 15 to 20 feet of water during mid-summer. Trolling deep running or suspending crankbaits or casting these baits along the shoreline and windswept main lake points can be equally effective at certain times of the year.

Be sure to use good release practices on sub-legal fish, which will increase the chances of the

fish’s survival.

According to angler reports, white bass fishing was excellent on Stockton Lake in 2021. White bass fishing in 2022 should continue to be good, as white bass recruitment has remained consistent throughout the last few years. Spring white bass spawning runs occur near or in the lake’s tributary streams from mid-March to the end of April.

During July and August anglers can often find white bass chasing schools of shad in the early morning and late evening hours on the main lake open water areas. In the fall, angling efforts should be concentrated on windy main lake points or banks.

Shallow crankbaits, rooster tails, swimbaits, and white jigs are good choices for catching white bass. Both flathead and channel catfish are present in the lake and at times will provide good fishing. Channel catfish are abundant and size structure appears to be excellent.

The upper half of the lake or large coves will usually provide the best channel catfish angling opportunities. Mid-May to mid-June, just before the spawning season, is usually the best time to fish for catfish.

Trotlines or jug lines baited with live baits are the method of choice for most flathead anglers.

Bluegill fishing should be good on Stockton in 2022. Good numbers of 6 to 8-inch bluegills are common. Bluegill fishing is usually best during the summer months using small portions of nightcrawlers or crickets around structure 15 to 20 foot deep. The many bridge pillars throughout the lake are a great place to escape the summer sun and get into some good bluegill fishing.

Corps of Engineers recognizes Dam Safety Awareness Day

May 31 is nationally known as Dam Safety Awareness Day, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, stresses the importance of knowing not just the benefits of dams, but also the risks of living near dams.

The Corps’ robust Dam Safety Program conducts daily, annual, and five-year inspections. Also, the Corps performs de-watering inspection of the outlet channels every five to 10 years depending on use of the structure to document performance.

Additionally, engineers and lake project staff are trained annually incorporating lessons learned from across the globe to improve best practices.

The Corps leads scenario planning dam safety tabletop exercises with upstream and downstream communities and include local emergency managers, their local emergency response partners, owners of critical infrastructure and the National Weather Service.

Together, they test emergency preparedness plans to understand how all the emergency plans will work together. This exercise is conducted every four years at all our 18 dams in a four-state area.

The Dam Safety Program uses a risk-informed approach to manage its portfolio



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dams, with public safety the number one priority. This robust risk-informed approach is a best practice adopted to develop balanced and informed assessments of operations and maintenance needs at our dams to prioritize and justify investments.

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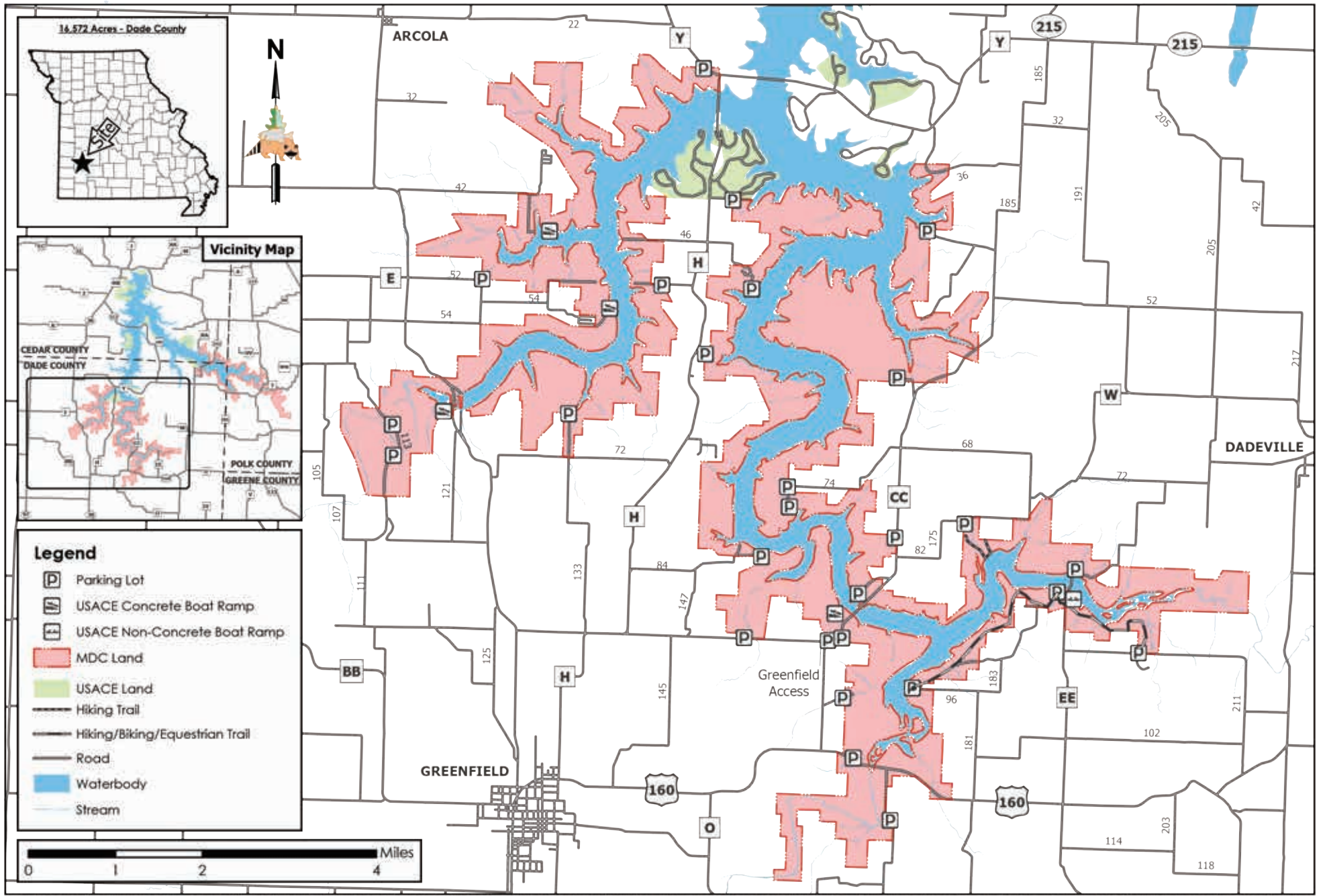
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Stockton Lake Big Sac Arm
 Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri ©
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Stockton Lake area equestrian trails

The trails were planned and laid out when Stockton Lake was built. The Stockton Saddle Club and The Army Corps of Engineers planned the trails starting at the end of Orleans Trail South Campgrounds and running to the Hawker Point area.

Campgrounds are located at both ends. Another trail is located at the upper end of the Lake at Hulston Mill area.

The Stockton Lake Equestrian Trail meanders approximately 15 miles between Hawker Point and Orleans Trail Campgrounds. The Hawker Point Trailhead consists of 6 Non-electric sites in close proximity

to shower facilities and restrooms. The Trailhead at Orleans Trail consists of 5 Non-electric sites and is also close to shower facilities and restrooms. Amenities include hitching rails, abundant shade, and ample parking for vehicles and trailers. The cost for these sites is \$10 per night. These sites are non-reservable and are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Horses should be shod for the trails, the Saddle Club arena is suitable for barefoot horses. Current negative Coggins are required.

The trails are open to the public year round for your enjoyment.

Rules for Stockton Lake Horse Trail

- Horses must be walked while in the trailhead area.
- Horses should not be tied directly to trees.
- No bathing of horses near water faucets.
- Horses cannot be ridden beyond the trailhead area.
- Do not bring horses into the lake.
- Follow safe riding practices.
- Horses can be brought into camping areas at both trailheads.

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Stockton Lake bank fishing fish attractors

All bank fishing attractors are marked with a green habitat sign except for those places around fishing docks. Fish attractors are made of large cedar trees and are placed within casting distance from the bank or fishing dock. The fish attractors were placed in locations near a parking lot or road pull-off. For more information, call (417) 895-6881, ext. 1624.

Keys to remember

Fishing success at fish attractor sites will vary depending upon many factors. The biggest factors for fishing success are location, time of year and time of day. On Stockton Lake, most species can be caught in coves and more shallow water in the spring and then again in the fall. Thus, fish attractors in coves or shallow water will be more productive in the spring and fall. Fish attractors near deeper water or the main lake will be more productive in the summer months.

The first two hours and last two hours of light are often the most productive time of day to fish. In species like catfish and walleye, fishing at night can be even better.

There are many good bank fishing locations on Stockton Lake. Crappie, bass and bluegill are often found utilizing

woody habitat.

For more information on where to find fish attractors on Stockton Lake, call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office at 276-3113.

Fee camping attractors

These fish attractors are located within walking distance of campsites. If you are looking for a place to camp and fish, these attractors can only be accessed by campers and their guests.

Stockton Lake fishing regulations

Black bass and crappie regulations are specific to Stockton Lake. All other fish fall under statewide regulations.

Black bass: minimum 15-inch largemouth or smallmouth, 12-inch spotted. Daily limit: six combined.

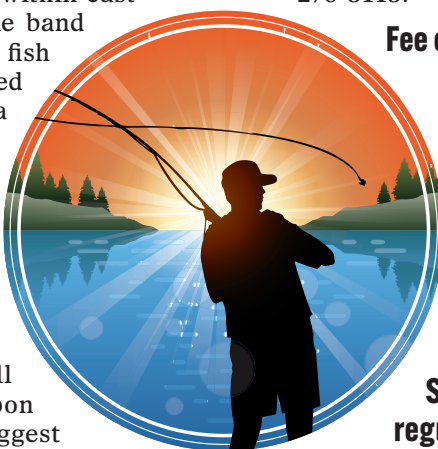
Crappie: minimum 10 inches. Daily limit: 15.

White bass: Only four larger than 18 inches. Daily limit: 15.

Walleye: minimum 15 inches. Daily limit: four.

Catfish: Daily limit, 10 channel, five flathead.

See "Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations" brochure for more information.



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When does lake release water?

Generation schedules for Stockton Lake Dam

The Stockton Dam provides hydroelectric power which is marketed through the United States Department of Energy, Southwestern Power Administration.

Power generation varies daily based upon supply, demand and projected schedules are only updated for the current day.

So how does one know when the Stockton Dam will release water through generation?

Two minutes prior to generation, the horn will sound. Releases made through the spillway gates will not be shown in the generation schedule.

For projected power

generation go to: swap.gov/generationschedules.aspx.

Once on the website, click on the day of the week which one is needing to view. Verify the correct date. Then, on the left side of the spreadsheet, look for the time needed. The time is listed in military time under the HR heading. Once the time has been found, slide over to the right and find column 16 (STD).

The hours showing zero indicate no generation. Any number which is not zero indicates generation or the releasing of water.

According to the Southwestern Power Admin-



Stockton Lake Dam today from an aerial view. FILE PHOTO/CCR

istration, Stockton Lake Dam releases water through generation between 7 a.m.-12 p.m. then 6 p.m.-10 p.m.. Stockton's approximate full power water discharge is listed at 8,300 cubic feet per second. Total plant capacity is listed at 52 megawatts with one total unit.

If one does not have access to a computer, you may call (866) 494-1993. You will be prompted to enter a code designating the lake inquired about. The code for Stockton Lake is 16 and the code for Harry S. Truman Lake is 17.

Set up alerts for changing river levels as well by going to waterdata.usgs.gov/mo/nwis/current/.

Lion's Club plans annual Chicken Stampede

Each Saturday during Memorial Day and Labor Day holiday weekends, citizens of Cedar County as well as the surrounding areas can find members of the Stockton Lion's Club on the public square at the intersection of Mo. 32 and 39.

One of the most charitable fundraisers, the twice-yearly Chicken Stampede offers a meal of roast chicken and picnic-style sides from 11 a.m. into the early afternoon for locals as well as lake visitors. Cost of the meal is \$8.

The tradition of the cookout goes back to the early 1970's when the local Jaycees built a cinder-block pit right on the parking lot in front of the northwest corner's hardware store, which is currently the location of the Cedar County Republican.

Legend says the Jay-



Marvin Manring helps prepare chicken for the Stockton Lion's Club Chicken Stampede in May of 2021. FILE PHOTO/KATHRYN SKOPEC

cees cooked from before sunup to late in the day for travelers coming to the newly developed Lake Stockton.

Current Lion's Club efforts include a trailer pit as most of the cooking takes place in the

morning. The Lion's Club cooks around 300 chicken halves roasted and ready for sale by 11 a.m. Also offered at the event is pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, baked beans and homemade pie by the slice or whole.

Efforts by the Stockton Lion's Club helps raises money for sight and hearing-impaired within the community and the Southwest Missouri area. The Lion's Club has been active in the area since 1942.

Thou shalt take a hike

By Pat Hindman
patriciah@cedarrepUBLICAN.com

It's a simple lake rule: Thou Shalt Take a Hike.

All who wander are not lost.

Early September. The air is crisp. In fact, our noses twitch like squirrels hoping to get a scent of the first suggestion of fall. When at the lake and the softwood leaves begin to fall, give yourself permission to take a hike. Oodles of trails entice us in Cedar County, some around lakes, some around streams, and some that simply enchant us with a surprise sighting of a deer or eagle.

Lake life should be a mellow

life. If we chose to move here, it is usually because we are longing for a more restful life. Then we get involved with work, family, civic duties, domestic jobs, and we get back into a habitual routine. What if we stopped today? What if we took our lunch while walking down a meandering stream? What if we chilled out just 30 minutes by walking on a leafy path? What if we took a breathing space?

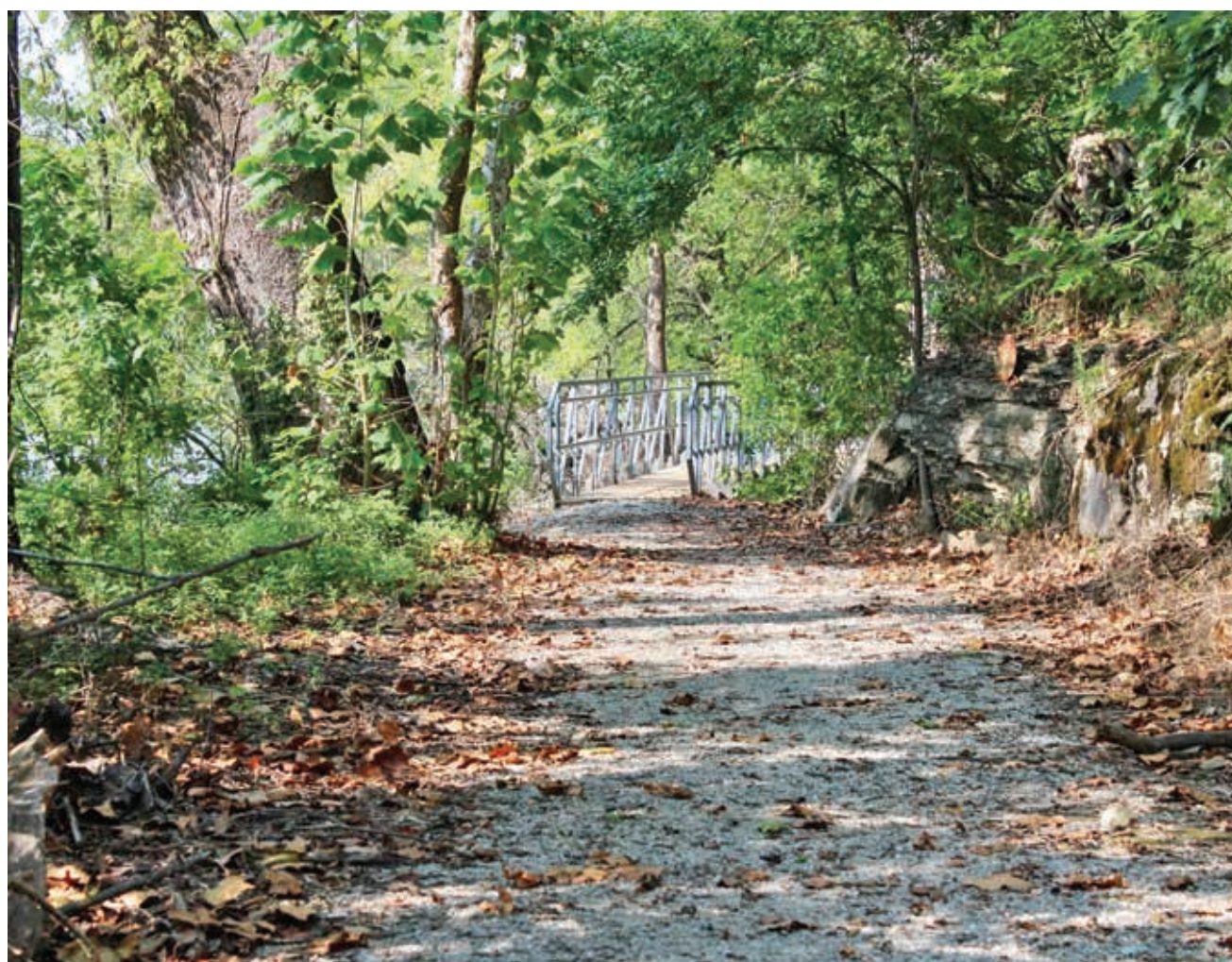
Hiking in Cedar County is easy. Paved trails, gravel trails and dirt paths are everywhere. The state conservation has marked many trails with species of trees, activities, ideas and benches for resting.

Crabtree Cove Trail consists of three separate loops with a little

under three miles of trail surfaces. It is located near Stockton Lake Dam and is suitable for bike riding, too. Umber Ridge Trail is 1.8 miles and primarily used for hiking. Tons of other trails exist around the Stockton Dam area. The Missouri Department of Conservation can be useful in finding trails.

When you go, walk with a purpose — psych! Walk instead with peace. Look for the unseen. Breathe like you have the lungs of Bigfoot and use kryptonite eyes to soak in God's creation.

When at the lake, take a hike. When you get back to routine, you will find your mind has taken a clearer path.



Lake life calls out for a September walk in the woods. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/IZZY HINDMAN

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The Dam Skydivers

Skydive in the Stockton Lake area

Looking for an adrenaline rush in the Stockton Lake area? Look no further than 'The Dam Skydivers.'

The Dam Skydivers is a full service skydiving training facility which is owned and operated with the intent of availing to clients the sense of adventure and aliveness parachuting has brought into the experience of the owners, Dr. Chase Lancaster and Steve Anderson.

"It is an honor and a sincere pleasure to invite others into this sport, and into our community, as we remain inspired by the joy and freedom that is experienced together on every jump," as stated on the company's website.

As a people-first company, The Dam Skydivers are actively engaged in supporting the communities surrounding Stockton Lake and are committed to serving through volunteering, donations and improvement projects, as well as partnerships with other local businesses.

The Dam Skydivers are located at Stockton Municipal Airport, adjacent to the 25,000 acre water-sports paradise known as Stockton Lake. Anderson and Lancaster are just two hours south of Kansas City,



and less than two hours away from Springfield, Branson, Lake of the Ozarks, Warrensburg and Joplin.

All tandem passengers and students must be over 18 years of age, and less than 220 pounds and have a healthy body mass index the day of their skydive. A valid photo identification is required prior to jumping.

Skydivers should wear comfortable clothing appropriate for the season, and tennis shoes.

After completing ground school, student skydivers go through three phases of training.

Phase one consists of a training tandem at \$199 and seven Advanced Free Fall jumps at \$175 per jump.

Phase two, coaching jumps are required next, an average number is three to five coach jumps, but it varies from student to student, at \$75 per jump. In the final phase, students

are released from the coaching phase and complete solo jumps for the remainder of their student progression (25 minimum jumps to be eligible for USPA A License), at \$25 per jump.

Tandem skydive training takes approximately 20-40 minutes, according to The Dam Skydivers. The training consists of an instructional video and personal briefing from your instructor. You will be attached with a nine-point harness to

your instructor for the tandem, so there is no burden of responsibility for you during this skydive other than to relax and have fun. During the briefing, you will be introduced to the aircraft, the equipment and the basics of the skydiving "arch." The body position will allow you to have the most comfortable skydive. Then, licensed skydivers will assist you in gearing up and preparing for flight.

The Dam Skydivers utilize exceptionally trained professionals and meticulously maintained-equipment. Two such pieces of equipment which one should know about: the AAD and the Reserve Parachute.

An AAD is an Automatic Activation Device which deploys your parachute for you in the unlikely event that your instructor does not, and the Reserve Parachute is a second, back-up parachute that is on board every skydive in the unlikely event the main parachute does not deploy. Safety is the primary concern of The Dam Skydivers.

The Dam Skydivers are located at 16210 S. 1425 Rd. in Stockton. Book a skydive by calling at (816) 865-6787 or email thedamskydivers@gmail.com.

Boating and thunderstorms do not mix

Submitted by the Missouri State Highway Patrol

Springtime in Missouri means ever-changing weather. In the last month, Missourians have seen thunderstorms as well as clear days in the 70s. When it is warm out, spring is a great time to enjoy Missouri's many lakes and rivers. But, remember thunderstorms develop quickly this time of year.

When a thunderstorm looms on the horizon, it is time to get ashore. Lightning, torrential rain and rough waters can turn a pleasurable outing into a life-threatening situation in moments. An unaware boater or fisherman can be taken by surprise, and not realize the danger a thunderstorm brings.

Severe conditions can quickly overwhelm smaller craft, resulting in swamping, capsizing, collisions, falls overboard, and other dangerous occurrences. Some thunderstorms can create microbursts—intense downdrafts over an area a half-mile to 2.5 miles wide capable of producing wind gusts from 60 mph to more than 100 mph. Microbursts can capsize a small boat or blow a passenger overboard.

Before leaving the marina or launch ramp, boaters should check their local weather stations for storm warnings and other weather alerts. Understand that knowing there is a "chance of a thunderstorm" will not necessarily tell a boater when one is headed his or her way.

Weather fronts typically move in from the west/southwest, so scan the horizon in that direction periodically for lightning flashes and other signs. Recognizing that a "lowering ceiling" — flat clouds getting lower and thicker — indicates an approaching storm front. To determine

the distance of an approaching storm, count the number of seconds between the flash of lighting and the sound of thunder then divide the number of seconds by five. This will give you a rough idea of the distance in miles.

If you notice signs of an approaching storm, immediately head for the nearest boat ramp or dock. These fast-developing thunderstorms are usually short in duration. Never try to outrun the storm in open water.

If you do get caught on the water during a thunderstorm, make sure everyone in the boat is wearing a properly secured life jacket.

Have your passengers sit low and in the center of the boat. Then, head for the bank of the river or shore of the lake. Make sure all doors, windows, and hatches are closed to reduce the risk of swamping and to keep the bilge free of water.

If there is lightning, disconnect all electrical equipment. If you are in a small boat, which could easily capsize or swamp, or if the conditions get too bad, head to shore immediately, beach your boat and seek shelter.

Weather can be both friend and foe to fishermen and recreational boaters. Staying alert to weather changes and taking appropriate action when necessary goes a long way toward safeguarding both lives and property.

Remember to make sure everyone on board is wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket every time you are on the water.

If you experience an emergency or see another boater in danger, dial *55 on your cell phone to reach the nearest troop headquarters. The Missouri State Highway Patrol will respond. We are here to help.



Swing into the spring, summer seasons

Visit the Stockton Country Club

The 9-hole "Stockton" course at the Stockton Country Club facility features 3,194 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 36. The course rating is 75.0 as it has a slope rating of 126 on Bermuda grass. Stockton golf course opened in 1970. Rusty Maggard manages the course as the General Manager.

As for rates, during weekdays, Monday-Thursday, the course charges \$15 for green fees and \$10 for cart rental per person. On the weekends, Friday-Saturday, the Stockton Country Club offers green fees for \$20 and cart rentals for \$15 per person. Memberships are also available. Inquire at the Stockton Country Club Pro Shop.



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