

Stockton Lake Guide — 2023 —

Welcome to the lake, where the fun awaits!

From the Cedar County Newsroom

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 largemouth 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 Engi-

neers 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.

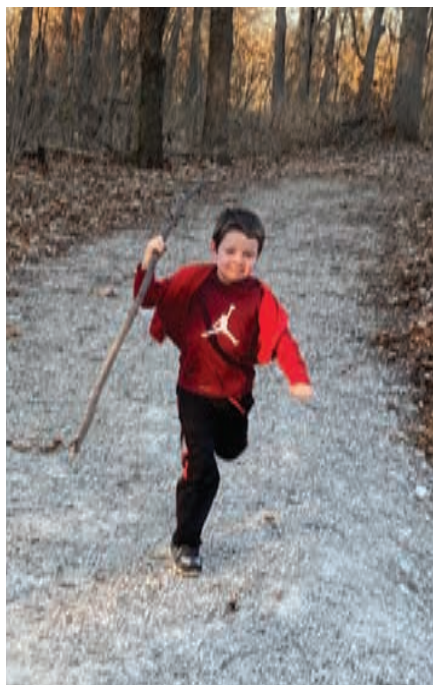
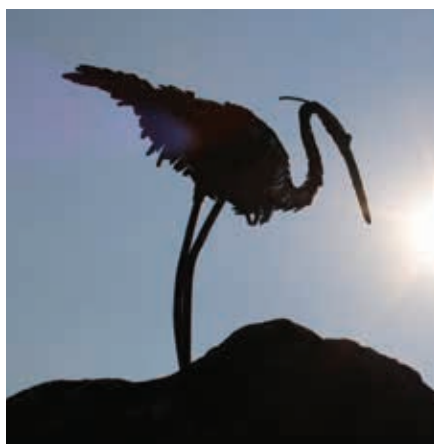
Stockton Lake provides flood protection for downstream areas and is part of a network of Corps of Engineer Lakes that help control flooding in the Missouri and Mississippi River basins.

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 2023 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.



The Three Marinas Welcome Visitors

By Ken White

The three marinas, Orleans Trail, State Park, and Mutton Creek Marinas are set for the anglers, campers, and visitors to the lake this summer. All three marinas offer boat rentals, fuel dock, bait, and fishing tackle, plus a store with supplies for anglers and campers.

Orleans Trail is located within the city limits of Stockton and is home to many sailboats. Mutton Creek Marina is located in the south section of Stockton Lake and features a floating cafe and a campground nearby. State Park Marina is on the east side of the lake and features Cabins, a general store, and a snack shop where the best

burgers can be found.

All three marinas have boat rentals, store, bait, camping, and fishing items.

Campgrounds are close at hand with spaces for tents and RVs.

The Robert Harris family from Kansas City camped and fished in Stockton six years ago and reported they found the marinas' folks very friendly and helpful. Harris said, "Since my wife and three kids hear the work camping, they always think of Stockton for many reasons, including the clear water and good fishing. We haven't hit any other campground since we started camping at Stockton."

Sail into summer:

Big events around the lake this year

SMOKE ON THE WATER BARBECUE CONTEST

Saturday, May 6, Gates open at 8 a.m. FREE Gate entry to the event. 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 16 and 17, at the Ray Zumwalt Expo Center at the end of RB Road in Stockton.

STOCKTON CITY FIREWORKS DISPLAY

TBD. 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

TBD

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE
CEDAR COUNTY REPUBLICAN



Lake area dining

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.



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
- **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**.

Ice, firewood and camping supplies

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**.



JCG
— CPA FIRM —

SIX OFFICES, ONE FIRM
El Dorado Springs, Nevada,
Stockton, Springfield,
Bolivar, Girard

Payroll and Bookkeeping,
Tax Preparation for Business,
Personal, and Trusts

CALL TODAY for local service!
(417) 276-3300

"A lake is a landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is Earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."
— Henry David Thoreau

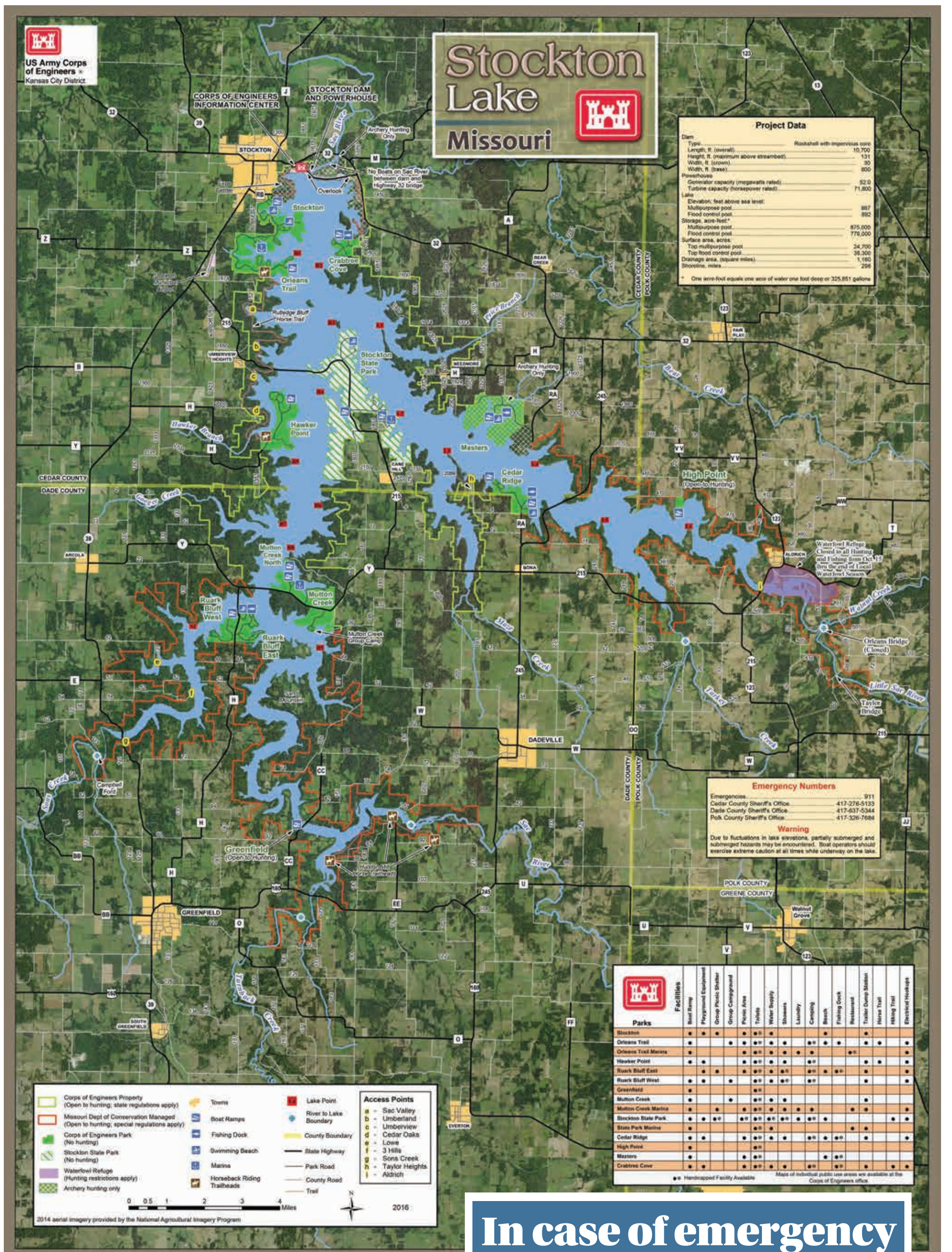
YOUR TRUSTED PERSONAL & BUSINESS ACCOUNTANT

Enjoy!
STOCKTON LAKE!

CEDAR COUNTY REPUBLICAN
& STOCKTON JOURNAL

Stockton Farmers Exchange

Hwy. 32 West in Stockton, Mo • 276-5111
Hours: 7:30 to 5 Mon.-Fri, 7:30 to noon Sat.



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.





MDC to host free Outdoor Skills Day on May 6 at Windsor City Lake

From the Cedar County Newsroom

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will host a free Outdoor Skills Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, at Farrington Park in Windsor. This is a great opportunity to learn and try out skills such as target archery, fishing, and hiking. The event is lakeside at Windsor City Lake.

Experts from MDC and Outdoor

Skills of America, Inc., will give demonstrations and help participants with outdoor skills. MDC will provide all the equipment needed for fishing and archery. The target archery sessions will be with easy-to-draw bows and arrows that fit all abilities. MDC will provide fishing tackle and bait. Staff and volunteers will help people go fishing. Outdoor Skills of America staff will demonstrate how to clean and cook fish at noon. Hiking skills and tips will be

taught during the event.

Outdoor Skills Day is open to participants ages 9 and older. Participants ages 16 to 64 will need valid fishing permits if they wish to fish. This event is an excellent way to introduce youths to the outdoors, or for adults to learn about an outdoor activity they would like to try. The event will be at the park's Shelter House E near the boat ramp. Registration is required. To register, visit <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/4Ak>.



PHOTOS BY BILL GRAHAM, MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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 paradise 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.

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



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

DIVE IN

And Enjoy all that Stockton Lake has to offer!

LAKESIDE CARPET INTERIORS

15245 S. Highway 39, Stockton, MO
417-276-3883

*Relaxation at it's finest!
Come see for yourself!*

SUPERIOR GEARBOX COMPANY

Highway 32 West • 276-5191 • Stockton, MO



Great trails for all to enjoy

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

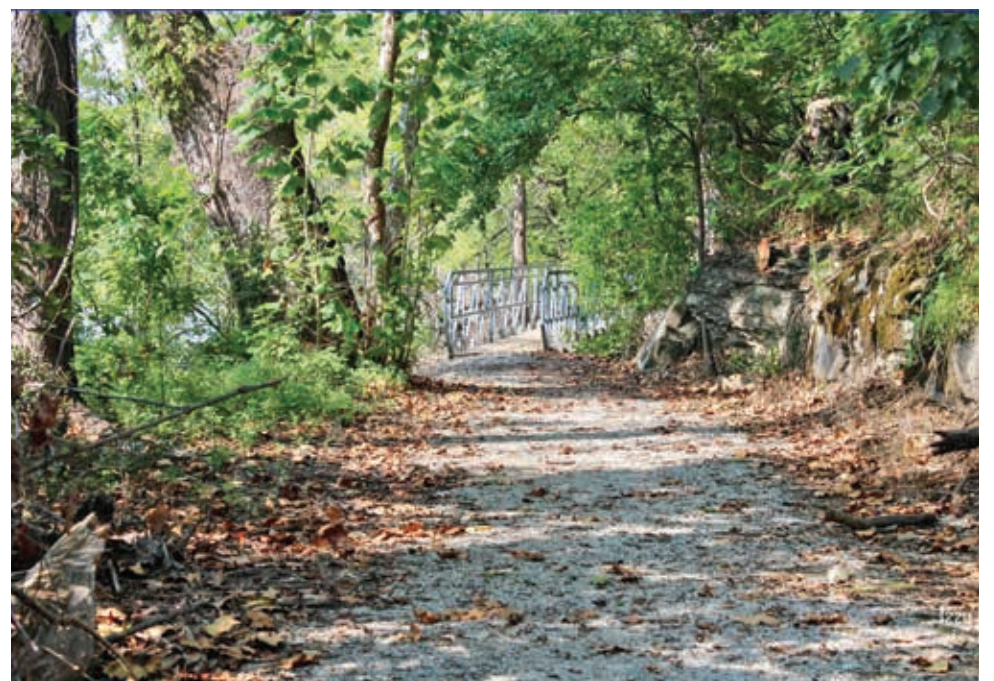
minutes by walking on a leafy path? What if we took a breathing space?

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. Breath 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

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.

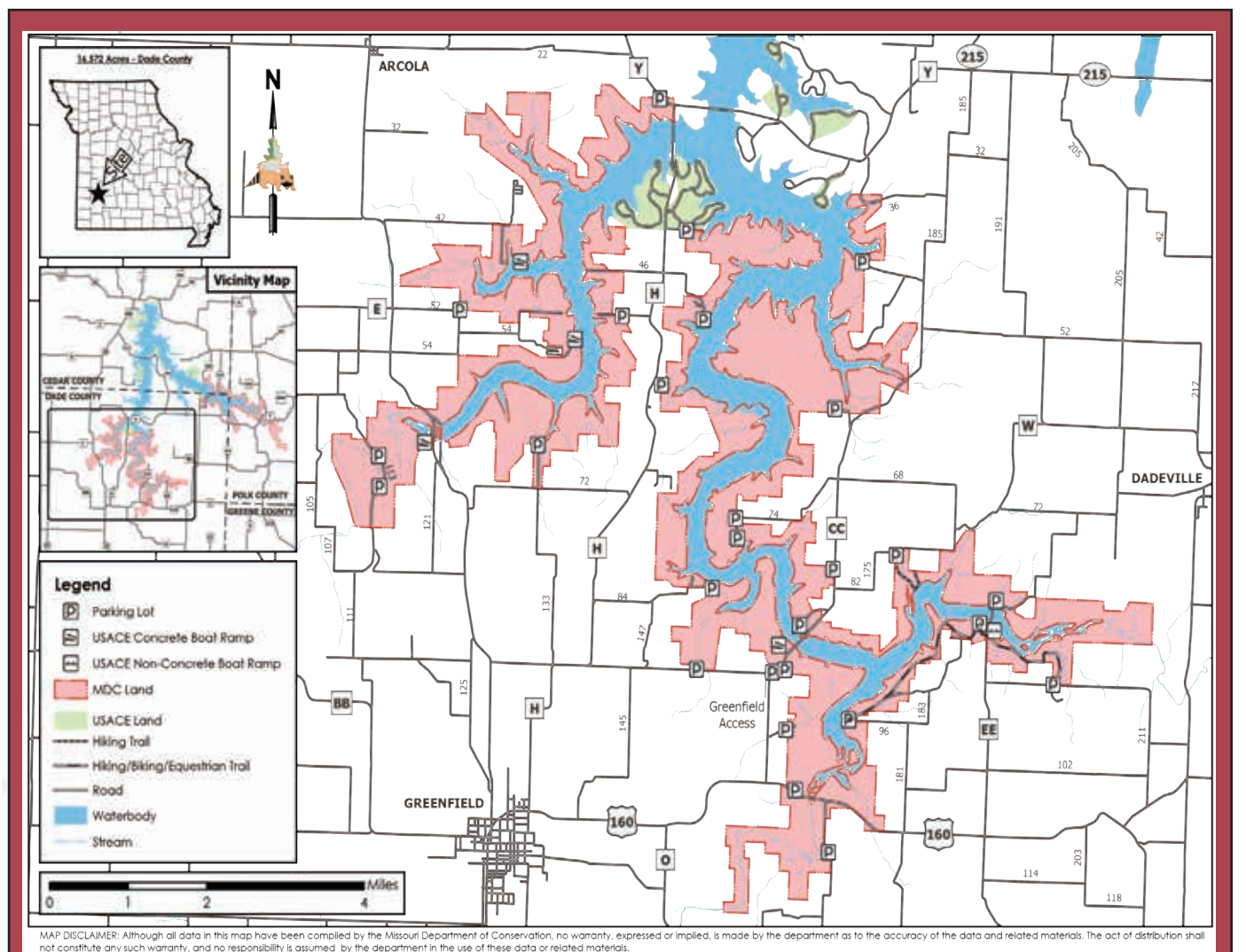
The Stockton Lake Equestrian Trail meanders approximately 15 miles between Hawker Point and Orleans Trail Campgrounds. The Hawker Point Trailhead consists of 6 Non-electric sites in close proximity to shower facilities and restrooms. The Trailhead at Orleans Trail consists of 5 Non-electric sites and 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 Trails

- 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.



MAP DISCLAIMER: Although all data in this map have been compiled by the Missouri Department of Conservation, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by the department as to the accuracy of the data and related materials. The act of distribution shall not constitute any such warranty, and no responsibility is assumed by the department in the use of these data or related materials.

Stockton Lake Big Sac Arm
Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri ©
Last Updated - 12/5/2018



2023 Stockton Lake Annual Prospects Report

By MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Stockton Lake is a 24,900-acre U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoir located in Cedar, Dade and Polk counties in southwestern Missouri. Fishing prospects for sport fish species will be good this year. Multiple years of ideal spawning conditions along with excellent gizzard shad production should continue to support quality sport fish populations.

Crappie fishing should be good to excellent in 2023. This is primarily due to a large 2019-year class of white crappie in the 11"-12" range. White crappie made up nearly 70% of the fish in this year's survey. Anglers will likely notice an abundance of quality keeper white crappie throughout 2023. White crappie size structure was excellent with 62% of the fish collected in the sample over the 10" minimum length limit and 16% were twelve inches or longer. There also appears to be a decent 2021-year class of fish that should provide catch and release opportunities for anglers in 2023. Anglers will likely notice an abundance of quality keeper black

crappie in 2023. Many of these fish are in the 10"-11" range. Black Crappie size structure was excellent with 56% of the fish collected over the 10" minimum length limit. 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 2022 several fish attractors were created or replenished from out of Mutton Creek North boat ramp. These, along with all other maintained fish attractor locations, can be found at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/43V>. Some 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.

Fishing for black bass should be fair to good in 2023. Largemouth bass are the most numerous black bass species in Stockton Lake, especially in the upper portions of the lake. Spotted bass and smallmouth 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. In 2022, spring black bass surveys were not completed due to flooding conditions. In 2021 largemouth bass catch rates were down and below the long-term average on both arms of the lake. Size structure was good with 24% of the fish collected on the Big Sac arm and 31% of the fish collected on the Little Sac Arm greater than the 15" minimum length limit. In recent years anglers have reported an improvement in smallmouth bass fishing on the lower end of the lake. Recent fall electrofishing surveys have produced decent catch rates of smallmouth bass. Size structure has been poor, however fish up to 18" have been sampled in surveys.

Walleye fishing should be excellent in 2023. 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 eleven years. Fortunately, we have experienced several years of good recruitment on Stockton. This should provide anglers with plenty of keeper fish. A surplus of hatchery produced fish allowed for higher stocking rates in 2020 and 2021. With the increase in stocking rates, anglers might notice an abundance of legal walleye in 2023. Electrofishing surveys conducted in the spring of 2022 revealed catch rates below the long-term average. However, sampling conditions were hindered by unusually cold-water temperatures. Size structure was decent with approximately 82% of the fish sampled at least 15" or longer and 9% of fish at least 20" or longer. Electrofishing surveys in the fall of 2022 produced good catch rates of juvenile walleye. These fish should provide catch and release fishing opportunities in 2023 and good fishing down the road. 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 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 good on Stockton Lake in 2022. White bass fishing in 2023 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. Flathead catfish are much less abundant and more difficult to catch. 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 2023. 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.

Allison's Quick Lube
417-876-4339



GET YOUR OIL CHANGED TODAY!

684319cb

Jct. of Hwys. 54 & 39 • El Dorado Springs, MO

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 dewatering 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



US Army Corps of Engineers®

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 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.

USACE operates and maintains approximately 740 dams and associated structures nationwide and in Puerto Rico that provide significant, multiple benefits to the nation — its people, businesses, critical infrastructure and the environment.

These benefits include flood risk management, navigation, water supply, hydropower, environmental stewardship, fish and wildlife conservation and recreation.





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 gener-

ation 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 indi-

cate no generation. Any number which is not zero indicates generation or the releasing of water. According to the Southwestern Power Administration, 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 Jaycees cooked from before sunup to late in the day for travelers



Marvin Manning helps prepare chicken for the Stockton Lion's Club Chicken Stampede in May of 2021. CCR FILE PHOTO

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.

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.

Come Enjoy The Colors of Stockton Lake

STOCKTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 410 • Stockton
276-5213
www.stocktonmochamber.com
 e-mail: stocktonchamber@gmail.com

WEEKEND GETAWAY

Mike & Joe's Service

(417) 876-3114
300 E. Highway 54
El Dorado Springs, MO 64744



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 lightning 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.

Walleye Fishing Heats Up In Missouri Lakes, Especially Lake Stockton

By Ken White

Just before daylight, the wind started picking up, and it looked like a planned walleye fishing trip would be gone.

As we arrived at the Mutton Creek boat ramp, we met Don Martin, Spring, who had been catching walleye for the past week. After we launched the boat, it looked like the storm was moving out, so the trip could go as planned.

Martin pulled into a cove where he had been catching walleye, and his electronics told him there were fish below.

Using a nightcrawler on a jig, his second cast, he felt a tug on his line, and in a few minutes, he had the first walleye of the day in the boat. It measured 16 inches, just barely a keeper.

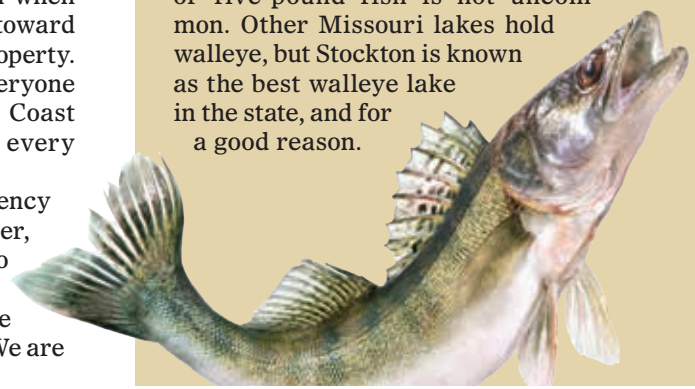
Martin said, “This lake has some great walleye fishing and keeps improving. I have fished several spots where I always catch a keeper or two every time I hit them. We have detected some less than 15 inches but also over 20 inches.

Martin has fished Stockton Lake for 14 years, and his large walleye was a seven-pounder. His favorite bait is a walleye killer, a 1/16-ounce jig with a nightcrawler attached.

Martin's first trip to Stockton Lake was a family camping trip said, “I started fishing and found it an excellent fishing lake. You can catch bass, crappie catfish, bluegill, and walleye.”

Many anglers who used to travel to Canada to catch walleye now head to Stockton, which has a good population of walleye.

The Missouri record walleye was a 21-pound lunker taken back in 1988 from Bull Shoals. At Stockton, a four or five-pound fish is not uncommon. Other Missouri lakes hold walleye, but Stockton is known as the best walleye lake in the state, and for a good reason.



ENRIQUE'S
AUTHENTIC MEXICAN GRILL

Authentic & Delicious
Mexican Food

417-276-6503
1225 S. Highway 39 • Stockton, MO

- Homemade Tortillas • Fresh Salsa
- Crisp Vegetables • Tender Meats

Authentic Seasonings And Slow-Simmered Beans Make Our Made-From-Scratch Mexican Specialties Impossible To Resist!

Stop in and see us while you are visiting the lake!

enriquesmexicangrill.com



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 large-mouth 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.