

Looking for a “fishing hole” with a little peace and quiet or somewhere to spend “quality time” with family and loved ones? Try one of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) Family Fishing Lakes for solitude and relaxation and the chance to catch largemouth and Cherokee bass, sunfish, crappie, catfish, trout and walleye.

The 19 lakes managed by TWRA are open year-round for fishing and outdoor recreation. These lakes are designed and regulated for family fishing; therefore, alcoholic beverages, houseboats, sailboats, inboard motors, and, except for the Recreational Zone at Lake Halford, water skiing, personal watercraft, and swimming are prohibited.

Most lakes have wheelchair-accessible fishing piers, bank fishing, boat rentals, launching ramps, and picnic areas. Some of the lakes are operated under concessionaire agreements and offer conveniences such as bait, tackle, and snacks.

These lakes provide quality fishing opportunities at minimal cost, in a clean, safe, and wholesome environment that is ideal for family fishing fun. If the family wants to get away from it all, consider one of these 19 lakes to pursue your thoughts and relinquish your worries to the tug of a bass, bluegill, catfish or other species. You might find something you had lost while enjoying an activity that is basic, simple, and just plain fun and relaxing.

#### Additional TWRA Contact Information

**Central Office**  
Ellington Agricultural Center  
5107 Edmondson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37211

**Fisheries Division.....615-781-6575**

**West Tennessee Office (Region I)**  
200 Lowell Thomas Dr.  
Jackson, TN 38301.....731-423-5725  
Toll Free.....1-800-372-3928

**Middle Tennessee Office (Region II)**  
Ellington Agricultural Center  
5105 Edmondson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37211.....615-781-6622  
Toll Free.....1-800-624-7406

**TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf)**  
.....615-781-6691

**Web site: [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)**



[www.tnwildlifefoundation.org](http://www.tnwildlifefoundation.org)  
615-831-3480

Many TWRA programs receive federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Authorization No. 328756, 36,350 copies, May 2004. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.14 per copy.

*Photos by Doug Markham/TWRA. Fish images on the inside panel are courtesy of Duane Raver/USFWS.*

# TENNESSEE'S FAMILY FISHING LAKES

Tennessee Wildlife  
Resources Agency



[www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)

## GENERAL INFORMATION/REGULATIONS

- A daily permit, in addition to a regular fishing license, is required to fish most of these lakes. An annual permit may also be purchased and is valid at 18 lakes. All permits are available online at [goutdoorstennessee.com](http://goutdoorstennessee.com), the "TWRA On The Go" app, TWRA license agent, and regional offices. At Lake Halford, a daily or annual permit specified for this lake only is required for anyone using the lake or facilities for any type of recreation

- Boats may be rented each day for a small fee at most lakes, which includes lifejacket and paddles. Personal fishing boats may be launched but may not exceed the no wake speed. Use of boat motors (except trolling motors) is prohibited on some lakes. Personal boats may not be left overnight.

- Fishing is permitted seven days a week from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (except Garrett Lake, open 24 hours a day). Only rods and reels, poles, and hand-held lines and jugs may be used (except on Lake Halford where no jugging is allowed). Commercial gear, trotlines, limblines, and castnets are prohibited.

- Size and creel limits vary by lake. Look for posted regulations at the lake; consult the current *Tennessee Fishing Guide*, available where fishing licenses are sold; or call the lake. For additional information, call (615) 781-6575 or visit [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org).

- Boats used for any activity other than fishing are prohibited, except for the recreational zone on Lake Halford and hunting on specific lakes during the regular hunting season as listed in the Tennessee Hunting Guide

### Residents:

- Anglers under the age of 13, or who are legally blind, or a disabled war veteran, military personnel on leave with leave papers, and holders of a Lifetime Sportsman license or an Annual Sportsman license do not need a license or a lake permit.

- Anglers who are 65 and older need only a Permanent Senior Citizen license (Type 166) and do not need a lake permit.

- Anglers ages 16 through 64 must have a Tennessee fishing license and an annual or daily lake permit.

- Anglers ages 13 through 15 need only a Jr. Hunt, Fish and Trap license.

### Nonresidents:

- Anglers age 16 and over must have a Tennessee nonresident fishing license and a daily lake permit.

- Anglers 13-15 need a Tennessee non-resident fishing license but do not need a lake permit.

## LAKES AND FACILITIES

All lakes have launching ramps, fishing piers or jetties, and picnic areas.

|   | Licenses Sold | Permit Required | Rental Boats | Outboards Permitted | Bait & Tackle |
|---|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>Brown's Creek Lake</b><br>(731) 423-5725       |               | y               | y            | y                   |               |
| <b>Carroll Lake</b><br>(731) 423-5725             |               | y               | y            | y                   |               |
| <b>Coy Gaither-Bedford Lake</b><br>(615) 781-6622 |               | y               |              |                     |               |
| <b>Davy Crockett Lake</b><br>(731) 423-5725       |               | y               | y            | y                   |               |
| <b>Garrett Lake</b><br>(731) 423-5725             |               |                 |              | y                   |               |
| <b>Gibson County Lake</b><br>(731) 423-5725       | y             | y               | y            | y                   | y             |
| <b>Glenn Springs Lake</b><br>(731) 423-5725       | y             | y               | y            | y                   | y             |
| <b>Lake Halford</b><br>(731) 423-5725             | y             | y               |              | y                   |               |
| <b>Herb Parsons Lake</b><br>(731) 423-5725        | y             | y               | y            | y                   | y             |
| <b>Lake Graham</b><br>(731) 423-5725              | y             | y               | y            | y                   | y             |
| <b>Laurel Hill Lake</b><br>(931) 762-7200         | y             | y               | y            | y                   | y             |
| <b>Maples Creek Lake</b><br>(731) 423-5725        |               | y               | y            | y                   |               |
| <b>Marrowbone Lake</b><br>(615) 781-6622          | y             | y               | y            |                     | y             |
| <b>VFW Lake</b><br>(931) 762-7200                 |               | y               |              |                     |               |
| <b>Whiteville Lake</b><br>(731) 423-5725          |               |                 |              | y                   |               |
| <b>Williamsport Lakes</b><br>(931) 583-2477       | y             | y               | y            |                     | y             |

## FISHING

Fish species found at all lakes include largemouth bass, bluegill, catfish, and redear sunfish (shellcracker). Crappie, Cherokee bass, trout, and walleye are present in some lakes. Bass fishing is good year-round, with the biggest usually caught from February through April when they are near the bank. Bluegill and redear can be caught by bank and boat anglers from late spring through summer. Catfish are caught year-round, but the summer months are best. Crappie fishing is best from early to late spring.

## SPECIES

**Largemouth Bass:** In TWRA fishing lakes, largemouth bass normally weigh one to two pounds, but on occasion exceed seven pounds. Bass can be found near the banks in the spring and fall but move to deeper, cooler water during the summer.

Bass feed on a variety of food, especially small fish. Baits such as minnows, worms, and a wide assortment of artificial lures are effective year-round.



**Bluegill:** Bluegill can be found in shallow areas near the bank and are easily caught by bank anglers. They commonly grow to six to eight inches in TWRA lakes, and baits such as crickets or worms (on size 6 to 10 hooks) and small artificial lures are effective.



**Redear Sunfish:** Commonly known as "shellcracker," redear sunfish are similar in size, or slightly larger, than bluegill. They are readily caught while spawning in May through June. Bait, tackle, and techniques are similar to those used for bluegill.



**Catfish:** Channel and/or blue catfish are regularly stocked into TWRA fishing lakes and commonly grow to two to three pounds. Catfish prefer deeper water than bluegill and eat almost anything. Baits with strong smell or flavor such as liver, night crawlers, cheese, and blood baits (fished on the bottom) are usually most effective. Since catfish are strong fighters and will grow as large as 20 pounds, strong tackle is recommended.



Channel Catfish



Blue Catfish

**Crappie:** White and black crappie can be found in most TWRA fishing lakes. Crappie fishing is usually best from March through May when they are spawning in shallow (two to four feet) water near protective

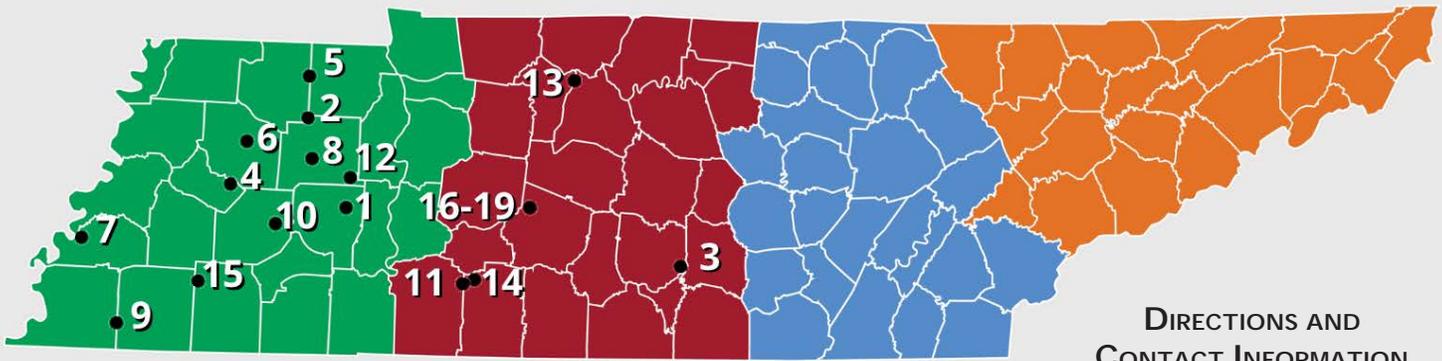


Black Crappie



White Crappie

cover. Crappie feed on a variety of insects and small fish, so small minnows or jigs are recommended baits.



**DIRECTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

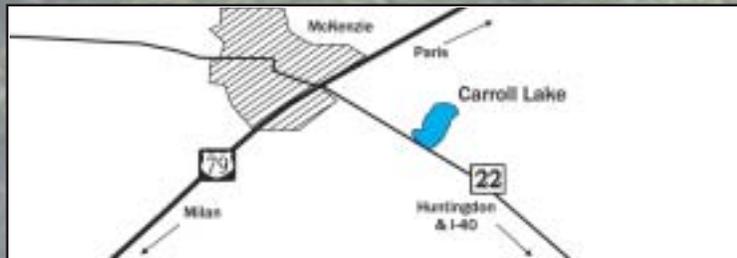
**1. Brown's Creek Lake (Henderson County)**

167 acres. (731) 423-5725  
 Ten miles south of I-40 in Natchez Trace State Park. From I-40: Take Exit 116. Follow State Road 114 south to Brown's Creek Lake Rd.



**2. Carroll Lake (Carroll County)**

100 acres. (731) 423-5725  
 On State Hwy. 22 between McKenzie and Huntingdon. Four miles east of McKenzie. From I-40: Take Exit 108 (Hwy. 22). Approximately 20 miles north.



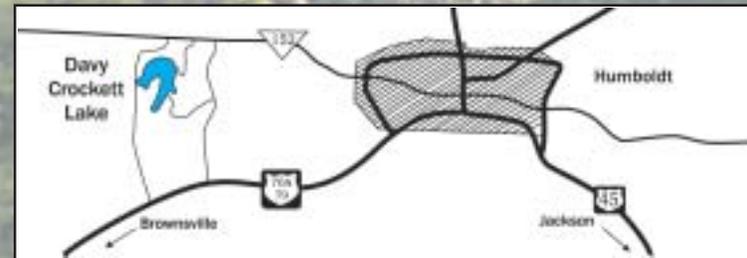
**3. Coy Gaither/Bedford Lake (Bedford County)**

47 acres. (615) 781-6622  
 Approximately 10 miles southeast of Shelbyville. From I-24: Exit 105 (U.S. 41) toward Manchester .4 miles. Right on 16th Model Rd. 5.9 miles to Bedford Lake Rd. 2.5 miles to lake entrance. From Normandy: Go .25 miles northeast on Huffman Rd. and turn left on Red Hill Rd. Go 1.5 miles and make a 90° left-hand turn. Continue .5 miles and turn right on Bedford Lake Rd. One mile to lake entrance. Purchase lake permit at nearby license vendors or online.



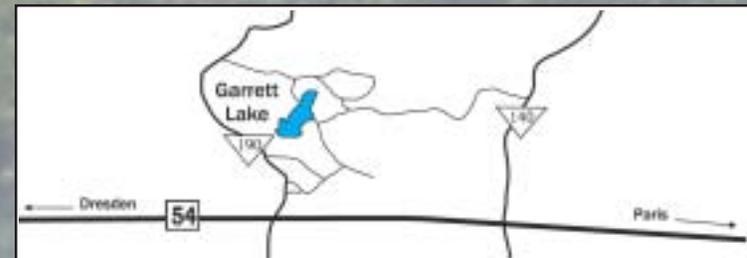
**4. Davy Crockett Lake (Crockett County)**

87 acres. (731) 423-5725  
 Approximately four miles west of Humboldt off State Hwy. 152. From I-40: Take Exit 80B (U.S. Hwy. 45) north to Humboldt. Stay on bypass west of Humboldt. Turn right on State Hwy. 152W.



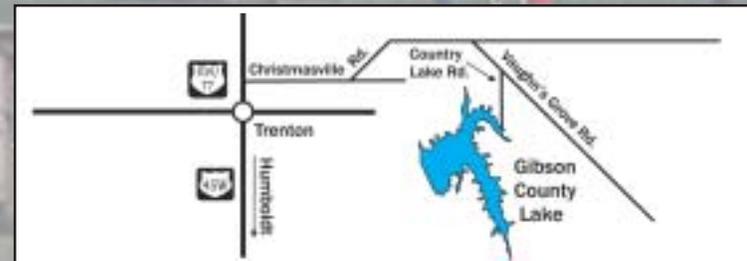
**5. Garrett Lake (Weakley County)**

183 acres. (731) 423-5725  
 Approximately seven miles east of Dresden off State Hwy. 54. Take State Hwy. 190 north off Hwy. 54. Right at split and follow directional signs to lake.



**6. Gibson County Lake (Gibson County)**

560 acres. (731) 423-5725  
 Five miles east of Trenton off Vaughn's Grove Rd.



**7. Glenn Springs Lake (Tipton County)**

310 acres. (731) 423-5725  
 On Glenn Springs Rd. 12 miles northeast of Millington. From Memphis: Take U.S. Hwy. 51N to Millington. Turn left on Wilkinstville Rd. At the end of Wilkinstville Rd., turn left on Drummonds Rd., right on Glenn Springs Rd., then right on Grimes Rd.



## 8. Lake Halford (Carroll County)

985 acres. (731) 423-5725

5 miles SW of Huntington Hwy. 70 – Multipurpose Lake

At Lake Halford, a daily or annual permit specified for this lake only is required for anyone using the lake or facilities for any type of recreation.

## Herb Parsons Lake (Fayette County)

177 acres. (731) 423-5725

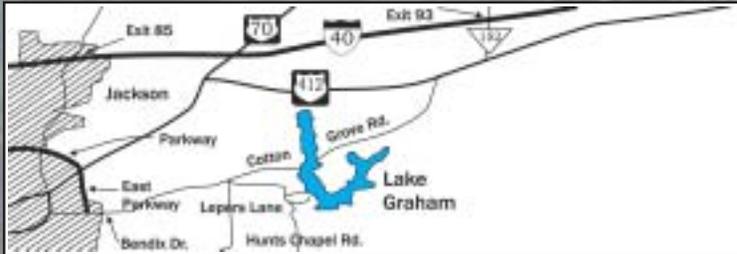
- 9 From Collierville, follow Hwy. 205 (Collierville-Arlington Rd.) eight miles north to Monterey Lake Rd., turn right, go to Fisherville Lake Rd., then turn left to entrance. From I-40: Take Exit 25 (Hwy. 205) south to Hwy. 193. Turn right on Hwy. 193, then turn right on Fisherville Lake Rd. to entrance



## 10. Lake Graham (Madison County)

500 acres. (731) 423-5725

Approximately five miles east of Jackson on Cotton Grove Rd. I-40 from Nashville: Take Exit 93 to U.S. Hwy. 412. Follow 412 to Cotton Grove Rd. I-40 from Memphis: Take Exit 85. Turn right, go to Parkway, left to East Parkway, left on Bendix, left on Cotton Grove Rd., then follow signs.



## 11. Laurel Hill Lake (Lawrence County)

325 acres. (931) 762-7200

Fifteen miles west of Lawrenceburg. Take Brush Creek Rd. off U.S. 64 to lake entrance. From Natchez Trace Parkway, take Laurel Hill Lake exit (Brush Creek Rd.) to lake entrance. Lake has a "youth-only" fishing area.



## 12. Maples Creek Lake (Carroll County)

90 acres. (731) 423-5725

Approximately four miles north of I-40 in Natchez Trace State Park. From I-40: Take Exit 116 (State Hwy. 114) to Maples Lake Rd.



## 13. Marrowbone Lake (Davidson County)

60 acres. (615) 781-6622

On Marrowbone Lake Rd. near Joelton, 15 miles north of Nashville. From Nashville: Take U.S. Hwy. 41A (Clarksville Hwy.). Left on Eatons Creek Rd. Right on Grays Point Rd. Right on Marrowbone Lake Rd.

From I-24: Take Exit 35, go south .2 miles and turn right on Eatons Creek Rd. Go to 2nd stop sign and turn left on Clarksville Hwy. Go .75 miles and turn right onto Eatons Creek Rd. Go .75 miles, turn right on Grays Pt. Rd. Go three miles, turn right on Marrowbone Lake Rd.



## 14. VFW Lake (Lawrence County)

22 acres. (931) 762-7200

Twelve miles west of Lawrenceburg off U.S. Hwy. 64. Take State Hwy. 241 off U.S. 64 to VFW Lake Rd. 1.25 miles past the State Hwy. 241 junction. The lake may also be reached from the Natchez Trace Parkway. Take the Napier Rd. exit (Hwy. 241).



## 15. Whiteville Lake (Hardeman County)

158 acres. (731) 423-5725

Two miles south of Whiteville off U.S. Hwy. 64.



## 16-19. Williamsport Lakes (Maury County)

(931) 583-2477

Whippoorwill ("Youth Fishing Only"--youths 16 and under and an accompanying adult may fish.) 25 acres

Blue Cat - 80 acres/Goldeneye - 13 acres/Shellcracker - 46 acres On Hwy. 50, approximately 10 miles northwest of Columbia at the junction of Hwy. 50 and 247, or two miles east of Natchez Trace Parkway.

