

## Summers on the Lake

by PHILIP LEE WILLIAMS

**W**hen my wife, Linda, and I were very young and very poor, we lived in a tin-roofed cabin in Mountain City, Georgia. Sometimes, to love well what we could love for free, we would drive around the lakes of Rabun County and all the green, wrinkled land in that far northeastern part of our state.

Decades later, with careers and family, we began to stay part of each summer at a friend's beautiful home on Lake Rabun, and if we had changed, the water had not. Its serpentine shimmer still bore wooden boats and the dappled reflections of geese.

We inlanders are always coming back to our favored bodies of water. Some are close to Atlanta and obvious, but others nestle down like delightful surprises in the flow of geography and memory.

Almost a century ago, Georgia Power built a series of six small lakes on the Tallulah River. Like all such impoundments, the lakes came with human pain. Area residents, even one whole town, had to move. But a century later, the lakes have a gorgeous inevitability about them. On any summer's day, the giggling of children can turn into the clarinety squabbling of waterfowl across their placid waters.

Many of our best days and best stories take place around such lakes.

On the dock of the house where we used to stay, I read out loud Hemingway's great story "Big ►



THIS PAGE AND  
NEXT: Lake  
Rabun, Georgia's  
Golden Pond



# HIDDEN LAKES

*Okay, so technically they're reservoirs and not hard to find. But these lesser-known bodies of water—from Chatuge in the north to Clarks Hill in the east—offer cool refuge from summer's heat, whether you're looking for a second home or just a second wind.*

by

PHILIP LEE WILLIAMS, ELIZABETH FLORIO, BETSY RILEY, STEVE FENNESSY, TONY REHAGEN, TRE'VELL ANDERSON, ELIZABETH CHOI, AND SARA CRAVATTS

photographs by JAMEY GUY



FYI

Top Five

Georgia's five largest lakes are **Clarks Hill Lake** (78,000 acres), **Lake Hartwell** (56,000 acres), **Walter F. George Lake** (45,700 acres), **Lake Lanier** (38,000 acres), and **Lake Seminole** (37,500 acres).

Lake Rabun is only 835 acres and not nearly so impressive as Lake Burton, largest in the chain. And yet its nestled privacy is part of an enduring charm. We loved the still water in a nacreous early morning, dark enough for owls but light enough to see a child's dawn-rosy face. We drank coffee on the lovely roofed space above the boathouse as luminous midmornings reflected cumulus clouds slowly drifting across the lake's surface. And after sunset, when the last few boats hummed quietly out on the dark water, we were in our seats for the deafening town hall argument of cicadas.

The tides on a small lake are not on the water but within those of us who visit them. We come to shed the world and cool off on hot days, when panting pines droop down to needle the ground. We come for quiet talk and great meals, to see an afternoon prestorm wind ruffle the water like a fond hand in a child's hair.

My wife and I are no longer young, and we see Lake Rabun in a different way from our early married days more than forty years ago. But as Hemingway said about Paris, "We always returned to it no matter who we were or how it changed or with what difficulties, or ease, it could be reached."

The same is true for Georgia's lakes. We never grow too old for the joy we find there or for the wisdom and forgiveness of water. ■

*A novelist, poet, essayist, and composer, Williams has been named Georgia Author of the Year four times by the Georgia Writers Association.*

Two-Hearted River" on that writer's birthday centennial in 1999. I remember our daughter Megan as she grew from a limber, laughing child into an always-reading teenager by its shores. Once Linda's parents visited us there and we waited an entire day, fearful but anxious, for a doctor to call and give Linda's mother the results of a test for a serious illness. When he finally rang near six in the evening to tell her the test was negative, we celebrated with drinks in the twilight as, far out on the water, a kid being pulled on a float looked like a bug on a breath mint.



## Lake Sinclair

HEAD DOWNSTREAM TO VISIT  
LAKE OCONEE'S EASYGOING SIBLING

Of the two lakes that make up Middle Georgia's "Lake Country," only one—Oconee—has established itself in the Atlanta lexicon. That's because in the 1980s an Ohio businessman transformed the land his grandfather owned into a luxury golf community that would eventually boast six championship courses and a Ritz-Carlton. (MetLife acquired the recession-battered Reynolds Plantation last year.)

On Lake Sinclair, there are no resorts or even hotels, no spas or golf courses—but several karaoke joints. Instead of gated subdivisions, you'll find a \$700,000 home next to a singlewide. But it's fed by the same waters and framed by the same rolling, farm-dappled forest as its tony sister to the north. It's fair to say Sinclair is Oconee with its shirt untucked. "Sinclair is and always will be an eclectic mix of homes," says local real estate agent David Jackson. "Often people will go to Oconee one weekend and come to Sinclair the next and buy a lake house." A lakefront lot on Sinclair runs about two-thirds the price of a comparably sized lot on Oconee.

Georgia Power began work on Sinclair Dam in 1929, halted it during the Depression, and finished in

1953, harnessing the Oconee River into a 15,330-acre reservoir between the historic towns of Milledgeville—state capital in the Civil War era—and Eatonton. Feeder creeks create numerous fingers that curl from the starfish-like arms of the main lake. Fishermen ply glassy weekday waters for bass, crappie (pictured top left), and catfish; jet skiers and pleasure boaters rule on weekends.

At the lake's northern tip, forming the seam between Sinclair and Oconee, is Wallace Dam, Georgia Power's largest hydropower plant and secret to Sinclair's best feature: It's always full. Burned into lake-loving Atlantans' memories is the drought of



**RESOURCES**  
Aubri Lane's Restaurant  
aubrilanes.com  
Duke's Lounge & Dawg House 478-453-8440  
Reynolds Plantation on Lake Oconee reynoldsplantation.com  
The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation  
ritzcarlton.com/en/properties/reynoldsplantation

2007, when Allatoona's water level plunged twenty-two feet, Lanier's twenty. Oconee dipped only three feet, while Sinclair stayed mostly full. Electricity is generated by pumping water from Oconee into Sinclair during the day and in the opposite direction at night (to ensure plenty of flow during peak demand times); since Sinclair is downstream, it must be at

full pool to reach the pumps. There's something *Truman Show*-esque to the fact that the currents run in different directions by day and by night. The upside is that fish love the oxygen-rich water.

If you're visiting for the weekend, your best ➤



Oconee Sailing Yacht Club (on Lake Sinclair)

FYI

### Luxury Lake

Lake Hartwell is home to the 2013 Southern Living Showcase Home, which will open this September. The home overlooks hole seventeen, known as the Quarry Hole, on Currahee Club's Rolex Top 1000 golf course.



**\$429,000 • 109 Spruce Point, Eatonton** This lakefront home has five bedrooms, three and a half baths, and a finished basement, plus extras like a wine room, wet bar, and two fireplaces (living room and master). There's also a boat lift and extra storage for equipment. *Contact Mary Burns, Burns Gore Realty, Milledgeville, 706-484-2153, burnsgorealty.com*



option is to rent a private home. (We used the website vrbo.com to find a cozy three-bedroom A-frame for \$250 a night.) Choose a location on the north end closer to Reynolds Plantation, or to the south near Milledgeville. For a night on the town, Aubri Lane's in Milledgeville offers an understated, seafood-centric menu in a converted nineteenth-century bank. For a decidedly un-Oconean experience, visit Duke's Lounge



Power maintains fifteen public boat ramps as well as a handy online map of lake amenities ([georgiapower.com/in-your-community/lakes-and-recreation](http://georgiapower.com/in-your-community/lakes-and-recreation)). For pontoon rentals, check out Sinclair Marina ([sinclairmarina.us](http://sinclairmarina.us)) or High Grove Harbour ([seeinstripes.com/hgh.htm](http://seeinstripes.com/hgh.htm)).

& Dawg House, a boat-up shack on Sinclair where “the girls” bring daiquiris, burgers, and hot dogs to your boat. “We like to say ‘No shoes, no shirt, better service,’” says Bob Butch, whose family owns the place. Oh, and there’s karaoke most weekend nights. —E.F.



## FYI

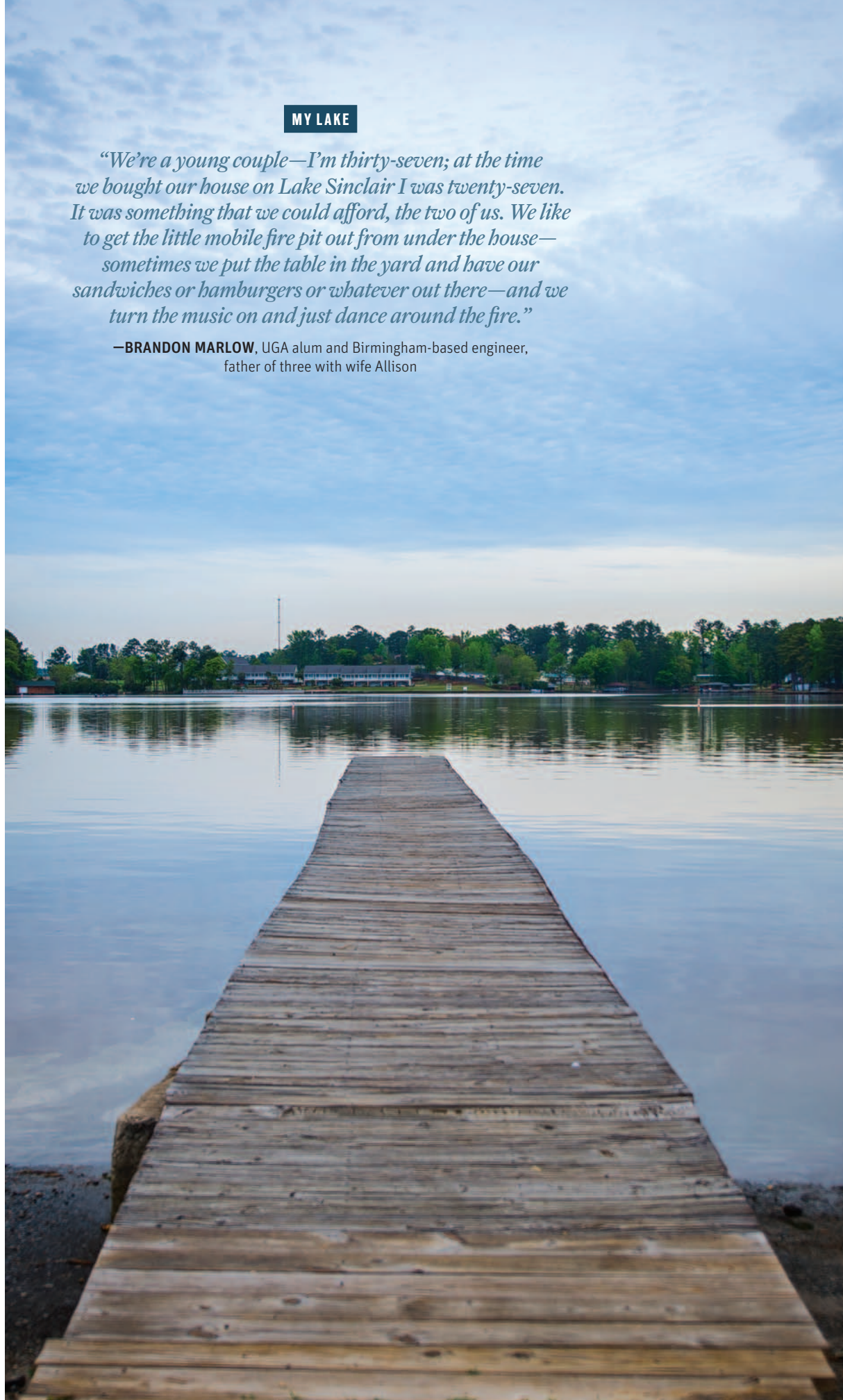
### Big Fish

The biggest fish caught in a Georgia lake was an eighty-pound catfish at Walter F. George Lake near the Georgia-Alabama border in 2010.

## MY LAKE

*“We’re a young couple—I’m thirty-seven; at the time we bought our house on Lake Sinclair I was twenty-seven. It was something that we could afford, the two of us. We like to get the little mobile fire pit out from under the house—sometimes we put the table in the yard and have our sandwiches or hamburgers or whatever out there—and we turn the music on and just dance around the fire.”*

—BRANDON MARLOW, UGA alum and Birmingham-based engineer, father of three with wife Allison



HOUSE: COURTESY OF ED REAMS



## Lake Chatuge

EXPLORE SECRET COVES IN THE SHADOW OF THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

It’s easy to get lost on Lake Chatuge, but that’s sort of the point. When the Tennessee Valley Authority dammed the Hiawassee River in 1942, it splattered water everywhere into

the nooks and crannies of the Blue Ridge Mountains that straddle the border between Georgia and North Carolina. To explore the 7,200-acre reservoir is to weave through secret coves, past uninhabited islands and peninsulas, all framed by the majestic peaks of the Nantahala National Forest. Although capacious enough for wakeboarding and jet skiing, scenic Chatuge invites more peaceful boating. It’s no coincidence that the local Boundary Waters marina is among JC Pontoon’s top dealers in the nation.

However, one casualty of the valley’s flooding was the Cloer family homeplace, now submerged some

2,000 feet from the shoreline. In 1987 the Cloer heirs opened a lakeside hotel on their remaining property and fortified it with a pair of cannons from a movie set (legend has it the nonfunctional props symbolize defiance of the TVA). But as Fieldstone Resort passed from owner to owner over the years, it got more shabby than chic—until a major overhaul in 2007 and rebranding as the Ridges Resort & Marina.

Georgia’s only mountain lakeside resort, the Ridges charms with amenities such as a nearby golf course, a saltwater pool, and a stone fire pit for nightly s’mores. The attached 400-slip marina makes it convenient for boaters, attracting the Antique Classic & Boat Rendezvous every year—including this year’s twenty-sixth annual event on June 8 and 9. Though the hotel is popular with groups, meeting spaces are in outbuildings, leaving the sixty-six-room lodge itself quiet and relaxed.

Antler chandeliers, tapestry fabrics, and stone fireplaces create a cozy lodge ambience, if one that’s a bit heavy-handed on the pinecone motif (which shows up in botanical prints, lamp finials, shower curtain rings, you name it). The signature Oaks Restaurant serves imaginative, ►



Priced in the mid-\$300s  
Water’s Edge on Lake Chatuge,  
Hayesville, NC

Newly constructed two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath houses have Hardie siding and natural stone exteriors, granite countertops, and stainless steel appliances. Homes have lake view and come with attached garage and deeded, covered boat slip in community marina. Contact Ed Reams, Advantage Chatuge Realty, Hayesville, 828-389-4466, [advantage-chatuge-realty.com](http://advantage-chatuge-realty.com)





MY LAKE

*“Lake Chatuge is the perfect weekend getaway for people from Atlanta. The drive up Highway 515 is really easy, especially if you live on the northwest side of town. The mountain views are spectacular, the lake is calm and peaceful, and there are rarely crowds or traffic. It’s so much more relaxing than a busy lake like Lanier.”*

—KEVIN CLEM, third-generation dockmaster of Boundary Waters Resort & Marina

FYI

Winter Lows

In years with normal rainfall, Lake Chatuge goes down ten feet in winter—about half the drop of the TVA’s other Georgia lakes, Blue Ridge and Nottely.





**GET ON THE WATER**  
In Georgia, the Ridges and Boundary Waters both rent boats. TVA also maintains a list of boat ramps and marinas in both states ([tva.gov/river/recreation/pdf/chatuge\\_rec\\_matrix.pdf](http://tva.gov/river/recreation/pdf/chatuge_rec_matrix.pdf)).

locally sourced regional cuisine, and this summer, a totally revamped casual restaurant, the Blue Otter, will offer waterfront dining and dockside takeout.

If you're not out on the lake, the scenic area offers prime hiking, horse-

back riding, and biking. Brasstown Valley Resort, with its own championship golf course and luxury spa, is just down the road. And if you've got restless kids along on a rainy day, a movie theater and roller-skating rink are across the street.

But we recommend settling into one of the Adirondack chairs beneath the giant maples shading the Ridges' patios. Look for the ducks (yes, ducks) that return to their branches every summer. You may find your own nesting instinct kicking in too. —B.R.



## Clarks Hill Lake

LAIID-BACK RESERVOIR OFFERS TROPHY BASS AND OPEN WATERS

We knew we'd hit the big leagues when we pulled up to the roadside bait shack near Clarks Hill Lake. On its pegboard walls hung an eight-inch, purple, bug-eyed lure, so large it had a name, Jake. There were Styrofoam bobbers the size of baseballs, and a tank of two-pound trout—for bait. The back walls of William Sasser's shop were plastered with snapshots of smiling anglers of all ages. An eight-by-ten of a guy in a ball cap and white tee holding a fifty-six-pound striped bass was taped to



ON THE MARKET

**\$399,000 • 900 Confederate Drive, Modoc, SC** Brick cottage with deck and screened porch overlooking lake, plus private dock with more than twenty feet of water depth, including covered boat slip and swim platform. Kitchen has granite countertops, glass tile backsplash, and stainless steel appliances. Upper-level master suite has lake views and sitting area. *Contact Lloyd DeFoor, DeFoor Realty, Appling, 706-541-0637, [defoorrealty.com](http://defoorrealty.com)*



Fishing guide William Sasser drives a houseboat on Clarks Hill Lake



Mistletoe State Park

HOUSE: KELLY BLANCHARD



**RESOURCES**  
Clarks Hill Park [scgreatoutdoors.com/park-clarks-hill.html](http://scgreatoutdoors.com/park-clarks-hill.html) Mistletoe State Park [gastateparks.org/info/mistletoe](http://gastateparks.org/info/mistletoe) (cottages from \$135 per night) Sasser's Guide Service [williamsasserfishing.com](http://williamsasserfishing.com)

the bathroom door. "Oh yeah," said Brad Sasser, who was minding the family shop. "That's Vaughn Taylor." As in PGA pro and 2006 Ryder Cup team player Vaughn Taylor. "He's a really nice guy, lives right down the street." *Really?*

Coming from Atlanta, Clarks Hill Lake seems buried deep in the middle of nowhere, but stripers don't care that the address barely registers on TripAdvisor. Clarks Hill is widely considered one of the best bass fishing spots in Georgia, if not the nation. With nearly 1,200 miles of shoreline, it straddles the border with South Carolina and is one of the largest man-made lakes east of the Mississippi River. Completed in 1954, it is the southernmost of three U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes on the Savannah River, just below Hartwell and Russell. The lake was named after a nearby town, which in turn was named after Georgia Revolutionary War hero Elijah Clark. But in 1987, U.S. Senator Bob Dole tacked an amendment onto a foreign relations bill that renamed Clarks

MY LAKE

*"Clarks Hill is so sparsely built you can ride for miles and miles and see no docks or houses or anything. On our lake, if you want to fish a nice, calm cove on Memorial Day weekend, you can do it. You don't have to be around a bunch of jet skiers. But if you want to, you can. If you don't want to be bothered by the other person that's not doing what you're doing, go two miles away and you're back with the quiet fishermen."*

—ALBERT MOODY, Clarks Hill resident and BMW salesman in Augusta

FYI

### Park Beaches

Atlanta's closest state park swimming beaches are Red Top Mountain in Cartersville, High Falls in Jackson, Fort Yargo in Winder, Indian Springs in Flovilla, and Hard Labor Creek in Rutledge.

Hill after South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond. Georgia fired back two years later with a resolution reinstating the original moniker, so the reservoir continues today with both names, one federal and one in Georgia.

Approaching from the east, you'd see the lake is not really that remote. It's only about thirty minutes from Augusta, which is where visitors will find most of the closest restaurants. But the fresh seafood we were after was still swimming around in chilly, late-winter waters. Our family had rented a cottage at Mistletoe State Park, which turned out to be a log cabin with a deck overlooking the lake—furnished with sturdy rocking chairs perfect for swapping fish tales. The cabin's woodsy aroma reminded me of my grandmother's attic and Christmas trees, or maybe summer camp, and its pine walls, ceiling, and floors wrapped us in the homey equivalent of comfort food. I would've been content to hang there, maybe rent a canoe or read a book (a favorite waterfront activity that I've not managed to pass along to my offspring). Predictably, my sons were up before dawn to meet Brad, our guide for the day.

We drove across the dam to Clarks Hill Park, ►







and that's when we got our first glimpse of the reservoir's vastness. The clear, jade-colored water shimmered blue in the far distance, almost like an ocean—an illusion compounded by migrating seagulls overhead.

Later we would find freshwater clamshells along the banks at Mistletoe. But apart from the horizon, the shoreline was pure rural Georgia, red clay and pine trees for endless miles.

In the early-morning mist, Brad pulled our boat up to the dam

and set out six poles with shiny minnows. Almost immediately, the tips started bobbing. The boys took turns pulling in fat, five- or six-pound striped hybrid bass, nearly tripping over each other in their haste to set the next hook. We caught eight fish in what seemed like thirty minutes, then our luck died. Too early in the season. No matter where we went, we barely caught a thing. At one point, the boys anxiously watched Brad's sonar as a purple swoosh that indicated a trophy bass teased us by lingering directly beneath the boat before swimming away. "Call me Ishmael," I joked to blank stares. —B.R.



#### GET ON THE WATER

There are public boat ramps at Mistletoe State Park, Clarks Hill Park, and dozens of other recreation areas. Check the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website for a list ([corpslakes.us](http://corpslakes.us)). Hayes Marine ([hayesmarine.com](http://hayesmarine.com)) in Appling offers pontoon rentals near Mistletoe.



## Carters Lake

GEORGIA'S DEEPEST LAKE WELCOMES REFLECTION OR RECREATION

Like just about every other sizable body of water in Georgia, Carters Lake is not a lake but a reservoir. It was created thirty-six years ago, when the Coosawattee River—which had been diverted to permit construction of the largest earthen dam east of the Mississippi—slammed into the dam's embankment. Today the river that once cut deep into this North Georgia gorge and inspired James Dickey's *Deliverance* is submerged, in places, 450 feet beneath the eleven-mile expanse of Georgia's deepest lake, where anglers fish for spotted bass, walleye, and stripers that grow bigger than my dog.

There is no development permitted on the sixty-three miles of shoreline along Carters Lake, which

FYI

### Ritzy Reservoir

Lake Burton has been called Georgia's "Little Lake Tahoe." Over the years, it has attracted celebrity homeowners like Fran Tarkenton, Sam Nunn, Herman Russell, Vince Dooley, Nick Saban, and Alan Jackson.

ensures breathtaking vistas and seclusion that are hard to find anywhere else within a ninety-minute drive from Downtown Atlanta. My family and I rented a house near one of the lake's only commercial operations, the Carters Lake Marina & Resort, which rents pontoon boats. The marina also has ten cabins with lake views, but we went through KZ Cabins in nearby Ellijay, which rents private homes throughout Gilmer and Gordon counties. Called "Cherokee Overlook," our cabin offered exactly what KZ promised: creature comforts (*five* televisions, a pool table, and quick Wi-Fi), quiet (except for the suicidal cardinal that insisted on flying into the downstairs window), and a gorgeous view of the lake below. We had hoped the water would be within walking distance, but it was a long hike down the



#### RESOURCES

Bigun's Barbeque  
[bigunsbbq.com](http://bigunsbbq.com)  
Cartecay Vineyards  
[cartecayvineyards.com](http://cartecayvineyards.com)  
Carters Lake Visitors Information  
706-334-2248 KZ Cabins  
[kzcabins.com](http://kzcabins.com)

INSET: COURTESY OF CARTECAY VINEYARDS

#### MY LAKE

*"I live in Ball Ground, between Lake Allatoona and Lake Lanier. Those lakes have so many people. When you actually get out onto Carters Lake, it is deserted. Carters Lake is cleaner, and the fish are safe to eat. Plus the scenery—there are mountains all around the entire lake. It's beautiful."*

—JACK HIGHT, who owns a houseboat on Carters Lake and has been going there for thirty years



Cartecay Vineyards

road to the highway, which we would have had to cross to reach the lake. Indeed, it's a challenge getting down to the edge. Most of the shoreline falls sharply into the waters. An exception is a small beach at the Harris Branch Recreation Area in the lake's southeast corner, though it was still closed for the season while we were there.

Carters Lake offers at least four boat-launch sites, and there are numerous fishing guides who will take you out on the water. For landlubbers, there's also a host of hiking trails around the lake, and the helpful guides at the Carters Lake Visitor Center, just ►



#### FYI

### Dam Lakes

All Georgia lakes of any significant size are man-made. Georgia Power controls fourteen, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers controls ten, and the Tennessee Valley Authority controls three.





off Highway 136, will happily direct you. (One word of warning: Be sure to prominently display your parking sticker; rangers here are vigilant.) Mountain bikers are in luck around Carters Lake: The top end of the lake boasts a six-mile trail that features both intermediate and advanced stretches.

Hungry? If you haven't packed enough food for your stay, the dining options are limited. Our first night we doubled back about twenty-five minutes to Bigun's Barbeque, which we'd passed on Highway 515. Attached to a Chevron, the restaurant gets packed on weekend nights. The brisket was tender,



**GET ON THE WATER**

There is only one marina on Carters Lake, but you can choose from four different boat ramps to gain access to the water. Damsite, Doll Mountain, Woodring Branch, and Ridgeway all allow for easy access to the lake and are just \$4 per use (\$30 for an annual pass). [carterslake.com](http://carterslake.com)

and Bigun's offers a healthy array of tableside sauces. (The staff was also very understanding of the mess my one-year-old left on the floor.)

We couldn't leave Carters Lake without dropping by Gilmer County's first winery, Cartecay Vineyards. East of Ellijay, past dozens of apple orchards, Cartecay offers generous pours at its tasting bar, and you're welcome to check out the thirteen acres of grapes. The phrase "Georgia wines" has for years been an oxymoron, but Cartecay's wines, especially the Vidal Blanc, made us stop and go, "Hey, this isn't bad!" And then buy a bottle. Or was it two? —S.F.

**\$425,000 • 276 Glenridge Way, Ellijay** Four-bed, four-bath mountain cottage built in 2005 with a spacious screened porch overlooking the water, vaulted living room ceilings, and heated floors in all baths. Open kitchen has carved wooden cabinetry and a stone backsplash, along with counter seating at a granite-top island. Wooden staircase leads from the lower-level porch down to the lake and private dock. Contact Sheree Knapp, Prudential Georgia Realty, Atlanta, 770-605-5470, [prudentialgeorgia.com](http://prudentialgeorgia.com)



ON THE MARKET

ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH WILKINS;  
HOUSE: COURTESY OF ADVANTAGE HOME TOURS



## Lake Lanier

SURE, IT'S ROWDY AT COCKTAIL COVE,  
BUT THERE ARE ALSO 38,000 ACRES OF TRANQUILITY

**LAKE LANIER ISN'T GEORGIA'S** largest lake, but it is the closest major reservoir to Atlanta, the state's most visited, and perhaps its most notorious. There are the ribald rumors of Cocktail Cove—a secluded bastion for booze-soaked boaters that is almost inaccessible by land. There is all the press about boating accidents on the channels, including the one last summer involving two brothers, nine and thirteen, killed by a drunk pilot. According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, more boating incidents (thirty-six) and fatalities (five) occurred at Lanier last year than at the seven other lakes in its jurisdiction combined—and almost as many BUIs (sixty). These records directly contributed to new state legislation lowering the legal blood-alcohol limit for boaters from .10 to .08. But beneath Lanier's choppy reputation rest 38,000 acres of tranquil escape just a few miles out the city's back door. Lanier might not be a secret, but here are some new reasons to visit Atlanta's lake:



obstacles, and rails. Rent their gear, or bring your own. [newwave-cablepark.com](http://newwave-cablepark.com)

### DON CARTER STATE PARK

Georgia's newest state park—and its first on Lake Lanier—will open early this summer. Located on the relatively quiet north side, the park will feature three and a half miles of hiking trails, a large sand swimming beach with a bathhouse, and playgrounds. Accommodations include brand-new two-bedroom cabins with cozy porches, RV pull-through campsites, and a camping area just for tents and hammocks. [gastateparks.org/doncarter](http://gastateparks.org/doncarter)

### QUIET ON THE COVE

For a true Zen experience on Lake Lanier, try stand-up paddleboard yoga. Check in with Atlanta SUP Yoga at Vann's Tavern Park and paddle to a quiet corner, where you can salute the sun while floating on water. Ninety-minute yoga or Pilates classes—taught by an instructor certified in both practices, as well as in paddleboarding—are suitable for beginners or advanced practitioners and cost \$30 (\$15 BYOB). Preregister online at [atlanta-supyoga.com](http://atlanta-supyoga.com). If a spa is more your idea of peaceful bliss, check out Lake Lanier Islands Resort's new floating massage rooms. While your kids cavort among the expanded water park attractions in Sunset Cove, you can chill nearby. Noise-canceling headphones optional (but available). [lakelanierislands.com](http://lakelanierislands.com) ■

### WAKE THE LAKE CABLE PARK

The brand-new Wake the Lake Cable Park is the only wakeboard cable park on Lake Lanier and in the metro Atlanta area. Learn to wakeboard without a boat at a fraction of the price (sessions from \$25). Cable pulls last five or six minutes and offer smooth rides because they are isolated from boat traffic. Beginners can learn how to stay afloat, and experienced boarders can hone their skills on jumps,

FYI

### Price Tag

It cost \$45 million to build Lake Lanier in 1956 and \$31.5 million to build Allatoona in 1950.

