

Fish Camp

Winter 2016

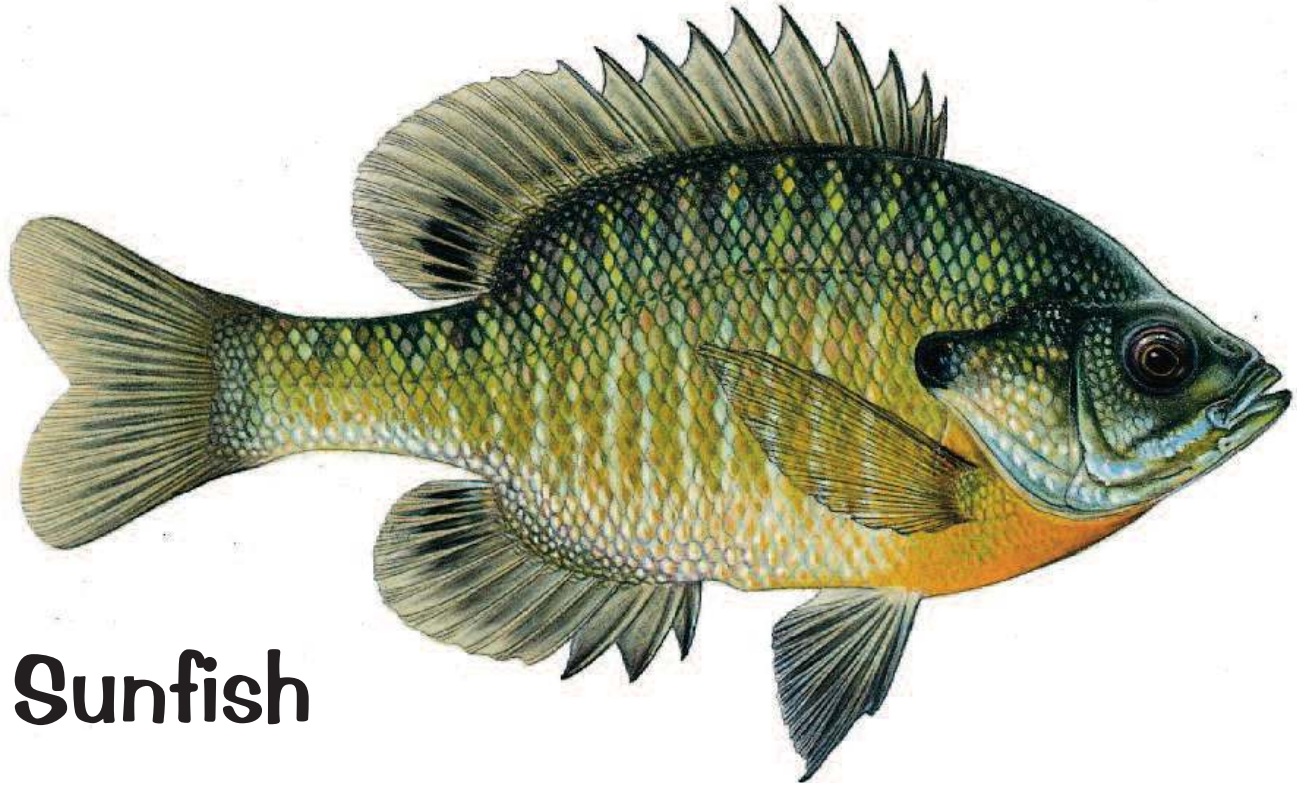


Mac's Shacks



Rapala





Sunfish

Sunfish are generally found in all local waters and are fairly easy to catch year-round. Use any live bait, but worms or grubs work best. Sunfish can also be caught with rubber or plastic "mister-twister" like artificial lures. Fish towards the bottom 12" of water to find sunnies. Keep sunfish from 5-9" in size. These fish can be scaled or filleted out. When cooked, sunnies are prized for being very tasty!



Bullhead

Bullhead are found in all local waters and are easy to catch in open water. Use any live bait, but worms work best. Fish on the bottom with a cork and plain hook baited with a fat worm and you will catch bullheads. Keep bullheads from 9-12" in size. When caught in cold spring water bullhead meat tastes much better. These fish, unlike others, must be skinned with a knife and pliers in the process of cleaning.



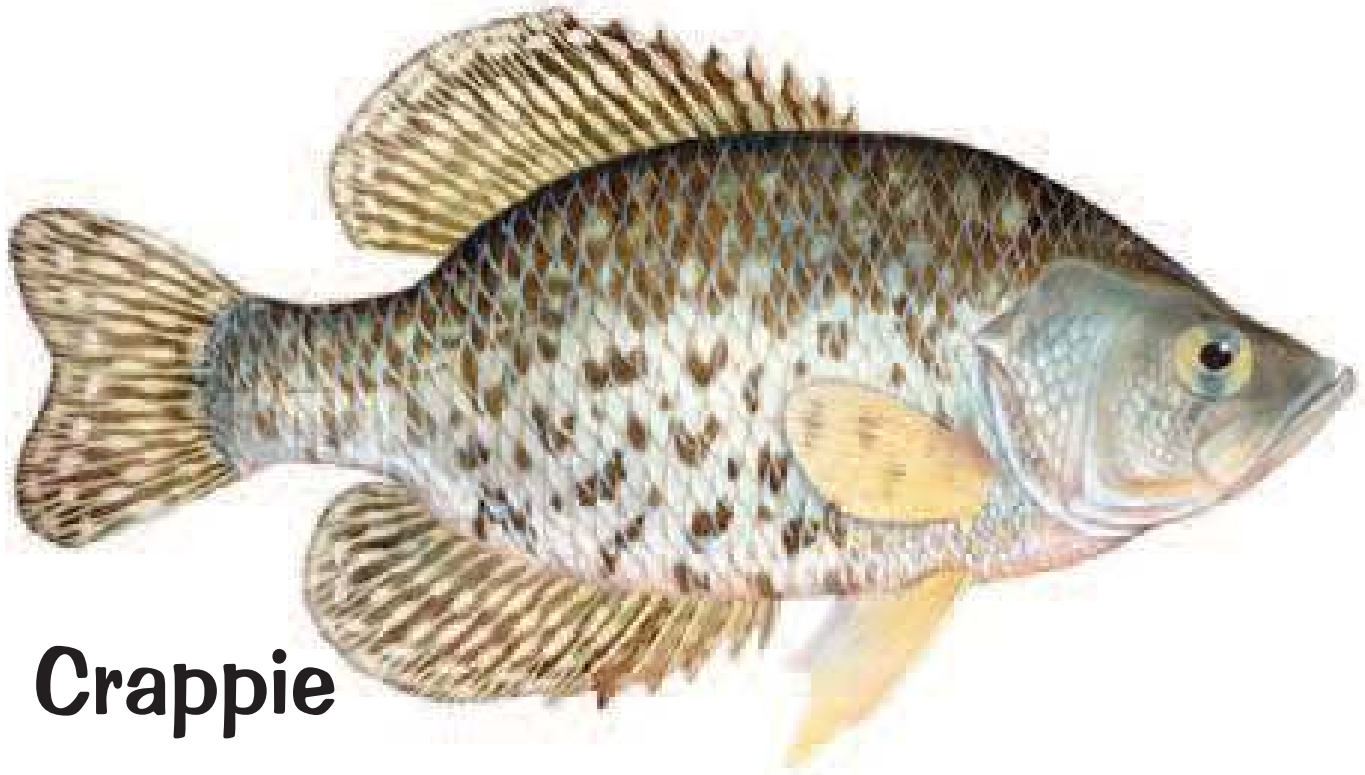
Carp

Carp are found in all local waters and are fairly easy to catch in the open water months. Carp are netted out of the water in the winter by commercial fishermen. Use any live bait - but corn, worms or nightcrawlers work best. Fish on the bottom with or without a cork and plain hook baited with a worm and you will catch carp. When you hook a carp, hang on because they put up a battle. Carp are particularly good smoked, some have recipes using apple wood chips, and brown sugar. Some people use carp for garden fertilizer too.



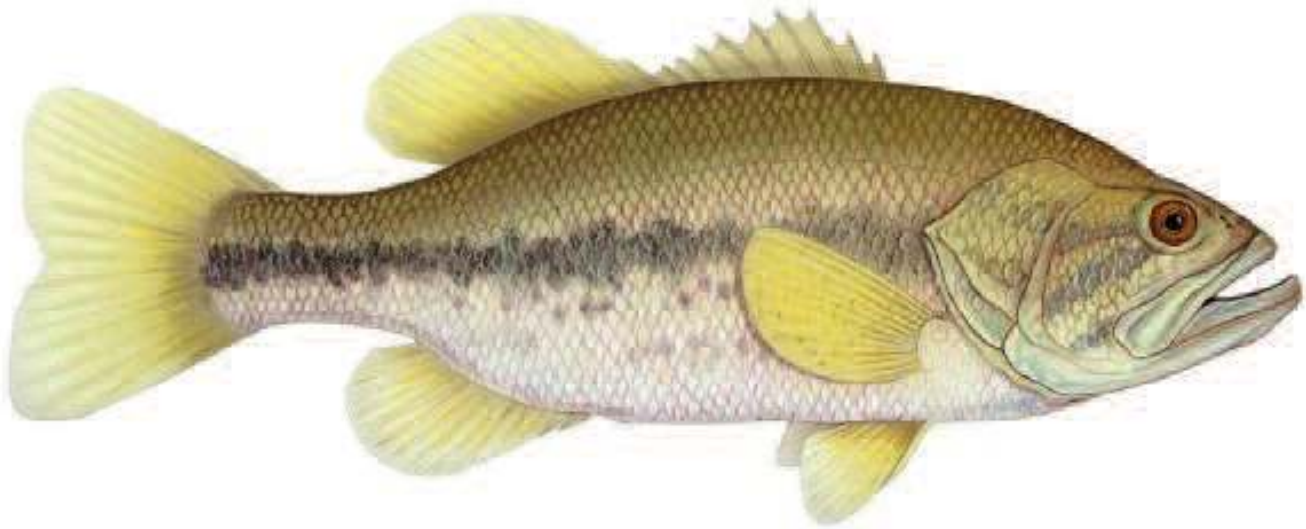
Catfish

Catfish are found in all the local rivers, and in some area lakes as well. They can grow to a large size. Being bottom feeders, you can use any live or dead bait. Fish on the bottom of fast-moving rivers with heavy sinkers and stout hooks. Catfish are known to be magnificent fighters and larger ones can snap a fishing line in a hurry. Catfish are more popular in the southern states as they are considered a delicacy. Many "catfish farmers" grow these fish in ponds on their property and sell them to restaurants across the country!



Crappie

Crappies are found in most area lakes, with some in the river system as well. They can grow over two pounds. Crappies are easily caught in the spring as they spawn in shallow water, afterwards heading to deeper water where they often suspend. They do like moving bait - minnows mostly, but can be caught with grubs. They like fluorescent yellow and orange artificial baits with tails. Fish them with a bobber or by casting. Crappies can be scaled or filleted. They are excellent eating!



Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass are found in all area lakes, with some in the river system as well. They can grow to to around eight pounds in our area. These bass like eating sunfish and minnows. Fish for largemouth with live or artificial baits of all kinds. These fish particularly like moving spinner baits and are often very aggressive and lunge at the lure. Largemouth are easily caught year-round, but only keep them after their season opens up. Largemouth can be eaten, but are more popular with fisherman to be caught for sport, and then are released.



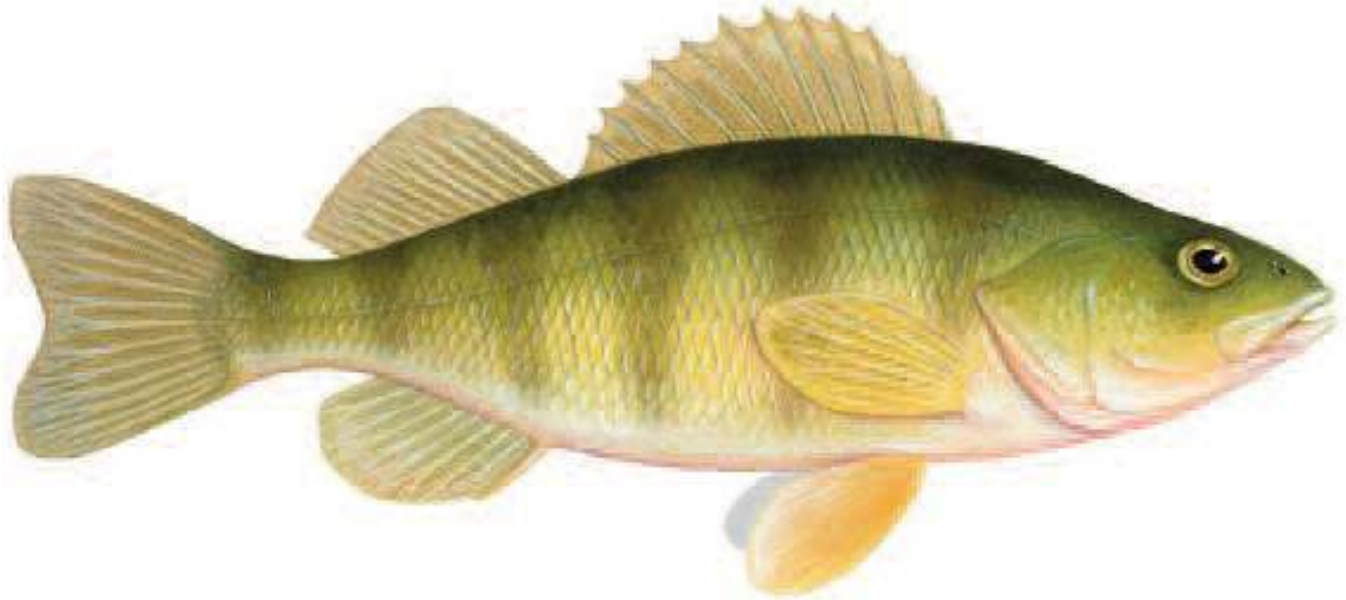
Muskellunge

In the water, muskellunge are at the top of the food chain. They are found in some area lakes, and in the Cannon River system as well. They can grow up to five feet long and fifty pounds or more. They will eat nearly any fish, duckling or muskrat, but like easier food like crippled fish or suckers and carp. Muskies are a sportfish, not usually caught to be eaten. If you hook a muskie hang on to your rod tight as they jump and dance on top of the water. They like moving bait, and are usually caught by casting artificial lures and spinner baits. Beware their sharp teeth!



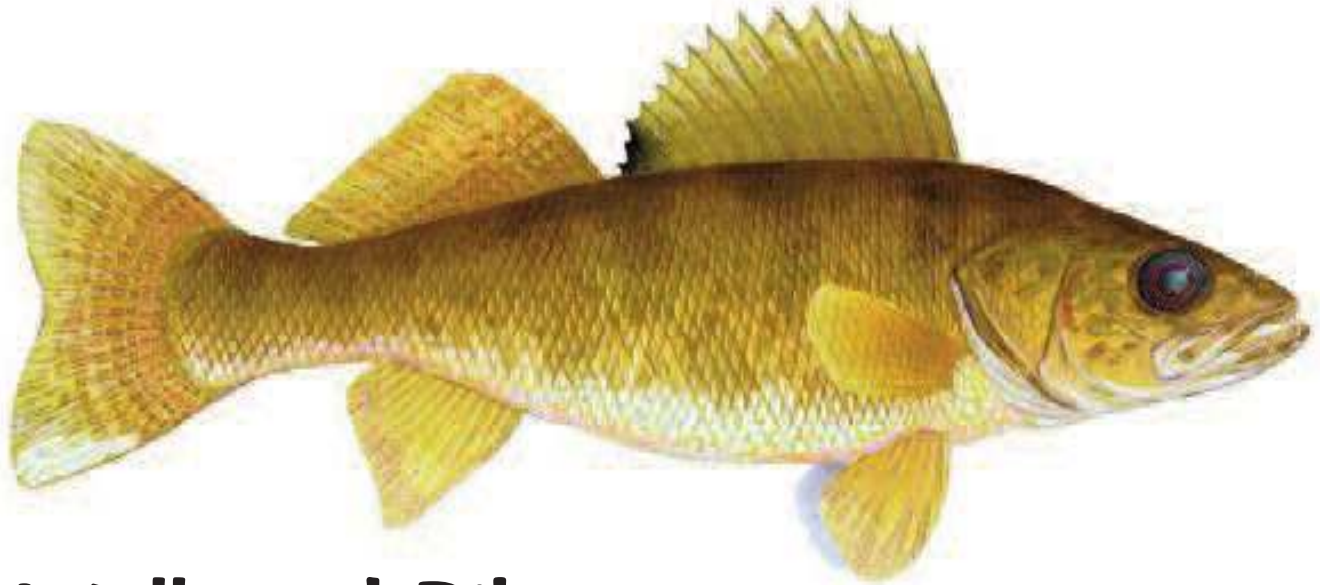
Northern Pike

Northern pike are found in all area lakes and in the local rivers where they can grow up to four feet long or so. They will eat smaller panfish like sunnies and crappies and even minnows. They are caught for sport but also to eat. Northerns are great fun to catch, but don't get your hands or fingers near their razor sharp teeth! Be sure to use a pliers and gloves to take your lure out of its mouth. They like moving bait, and are usually caught by casting artificial lures, spinner baits, or fished with large minnows. Northerns over 24" should be released - smaller ones are healthier to eat.



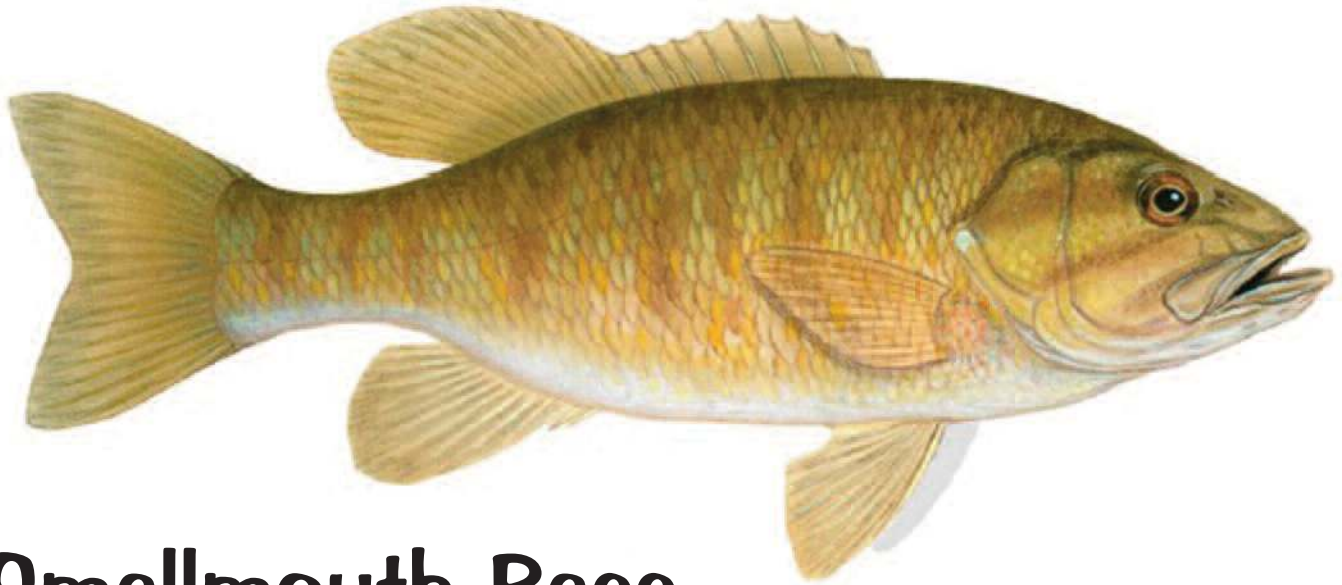
Yellow Perch

Catching perch is a favorite past-time for many. They are easiest caught in the fall in area lakes and rivers where they "school up" closer to shore. A good size perch can grow to 16 inches or more, but a good size to keep is 9-12". Perch like eating minnows and bugs found in water. For best luck, fish perch with a bobber and brightly-colored jigs, like fluorescent yellow, pink, or orange, with a minnow. Perch are excellent eating as they have a wonderful flavor. Scale or fillet these fish.



Walleyed Pike

The walleye is the MN state fish and the most sought-after because they taste so good! Walleyes like fresh water and are found in most area lakes and in the local rivers. They can be caught with minnows, leeches or nightcrawlers using a bobber, or by casting with artificial baits and lures. They eat minnows and small panfish. Be sure to use a pliers as they have sharp teeth. It's easier to catch walleyes in the spring and fall during their migration from one area to another. Walleyes are best filleted out.



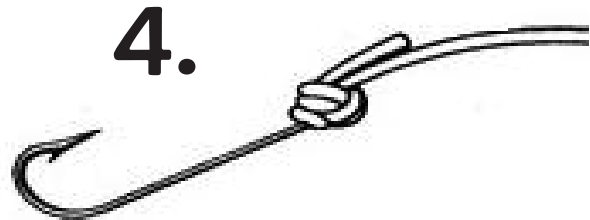
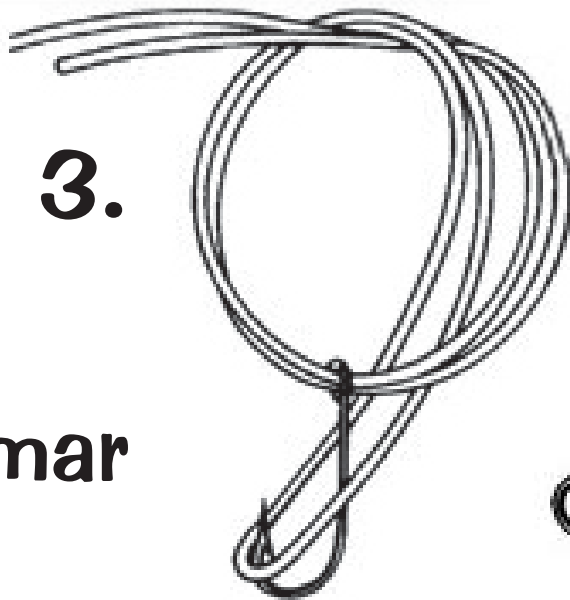
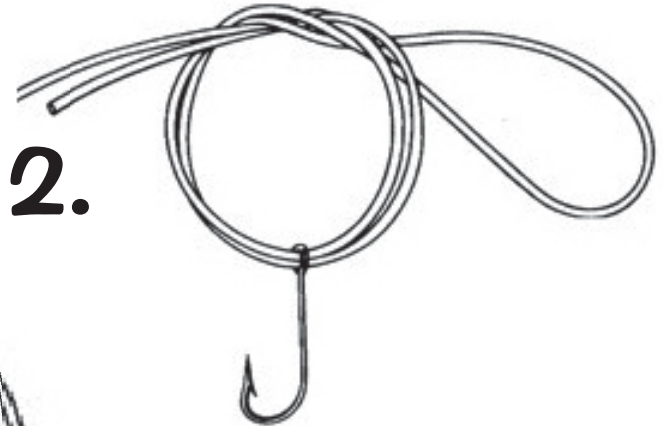
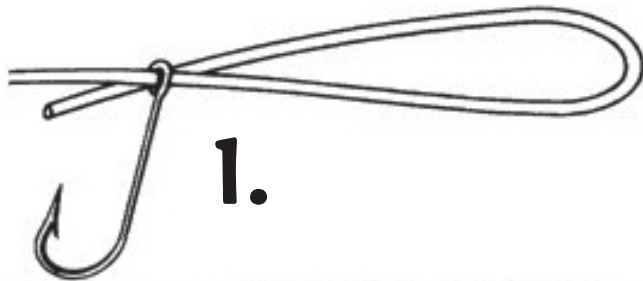
Smallmouth Bass

Most people fish smallmouth bass for sport as they jump out of the water frequently after being hooked. They are known to be big eaters and great fighters! Find them plentiful in the Straight River. Fish deeper pools of water, or around submerged rocks or branches. Smallmouth like eating minnows and have been known to eat crawfish too. Fish them with rubber or plastic artificial baits, or with hook and bobber. Smallmouth of sizes 9-12" are best eating, larger ones should be released.



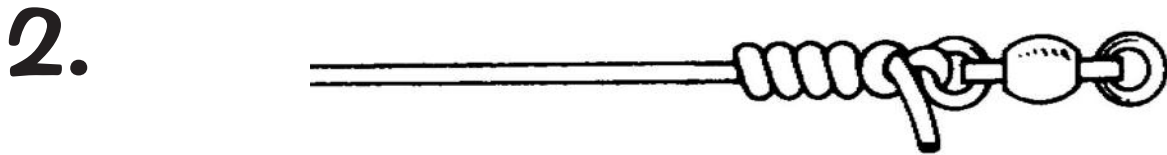
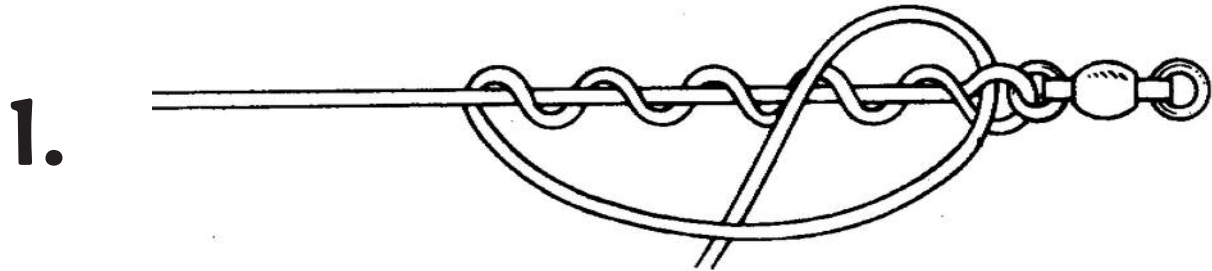
Sheephead

Not many fish compare to the sheephead for the fight they put up once hooked. These fish are usually caught when one is fishing for something else! They will feed on most any bait presented to them. Generally, sheephead are considered rough fish, (like carp or suckers) not for human consumption. There are some that do eat them, and say they compare to walleye in taste.



Palomar Knot

- 1.) Double at least 4" of line, put the loop through the eye of the hook.
- 2.) Let the hook hang loose, and tie an overhand knot.
- 3.) Pull the loop end far enough to pass it over the hook.
- 4.) Pull both ends tight into a knot as shown. Trim the extra line off.



Clinch Knot

1.) Pass the line through the eye of the hook. Grab the hook and twist the line 5 times with your other hand. Run the line back through the eye of the hook again, and then tuck it into the loop it creates.

2.) Pull the line tight! Clip off the extra line on the end.



Basic Fishing Tackle

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| 1.) Bobbers | 5.) Five-Gallon Pail | 9.) |
| 2.) Split Shot Sinkers | 6.) Nail Clippers | 10.) |
| 3.) Hooks & Jigs | 7.) Extra Fishing Line | 11.) |
| 4.) Carrying Bag | 8.) Clip-on Depth Finder | 12.) |



Taking Care of Your Fish

Fish out of water are sensitive--handle them with care. Use a needlenose pliers to unhook fish as it reduces damage to the fish and it will keep you a safer distance from the fish's sharp teeth!

Fish have a protective coating of slime, take care not to damage it. Return fish to the water as soon as possible if you are not going to keep them. Keep fish alive as long as possible if you intend to keep them.



Conservation & Fishing Ethics

- 1.) Pick up after yourself and others
- 2.) Old fishing line is deadly!
- 3.) Stay within established fish limits
- 4.) Keep fish that are only in season
- 5.) Get a license if over age 18
- 6.) Read the regulations
- 7.) Ask permission to fish on private land
- 8.) Respect the environment



A Lifetime of Fishing!

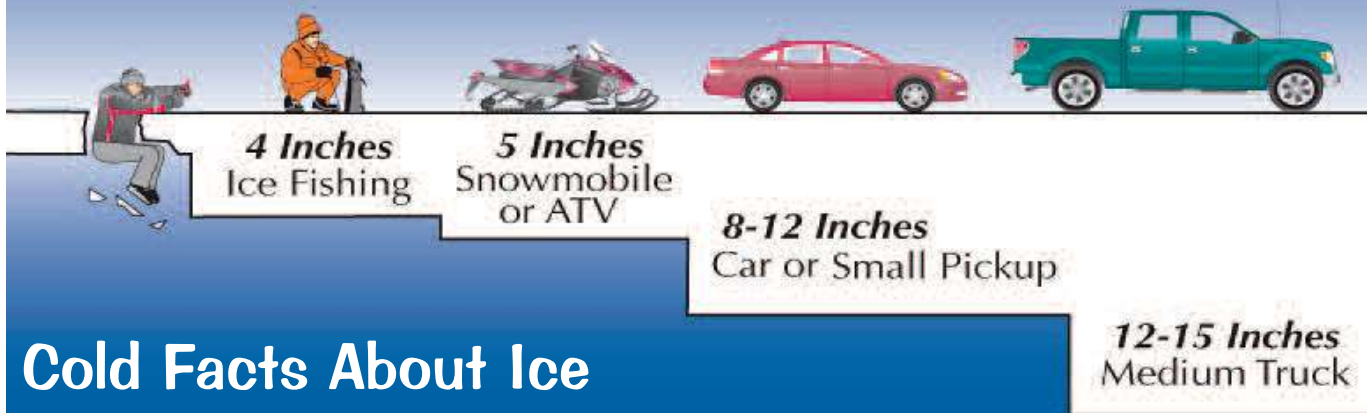
Benefits Include:

- Fishing remains one of the most inexpensive leisure-time activities. For the cost of a tank of gas, a family of four can fish for a year!
- Fishing is a great family activity that reinforces the value of family togetherness and family tradition.
- Fishing can easily be combined with family vacations, picnics and other types of outings.
- Fishing gets you out of the house, and helps keep you away from the television and electronic games.
- Fishing also gets you away from the "rat race." The fresh air and sunshine can help you relax and forget about your cares for awhile.
- Fishing is an activity for all ages!
- Fishing is a year-round, four-season activity!

Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness

(Rough Guidelines for New Clear Ice Only)

2" or less
**STAY
OFF!!**



Cold Facts About Ice

- New ice is usually stronger than old ice.
- Ice seldom freezes uniformly.
- Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous.
- The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process.
- Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous.
- Schools of fish or waterfowl can also affect the relative safety of ice.



Rods, Reels & Tip-Ups

Ice fishing rods are short - anywhere from 24-36" and are made of graphite. Depending on what type of fish you plan to catch helps determine what sensitivity to look for in a rod. For panfish you want an ultralight rod, but for gamefish like northern pike, consider something heavier.

A spinning reel or even a simple spring-tension spool works for ice fishing. The line you choose should match the rod. The more lightweight the rod, the lighter the line.

Some anglers prefer fishing tip-ups - a device set on the ice above your hole and uses a flag as a strike indicator.

Tip-ups have a small reel that is submerged in water. and when a fish bites, it turns and releases the line and flag at the same time. The flag "tips up," alerting the angler something is on the line.



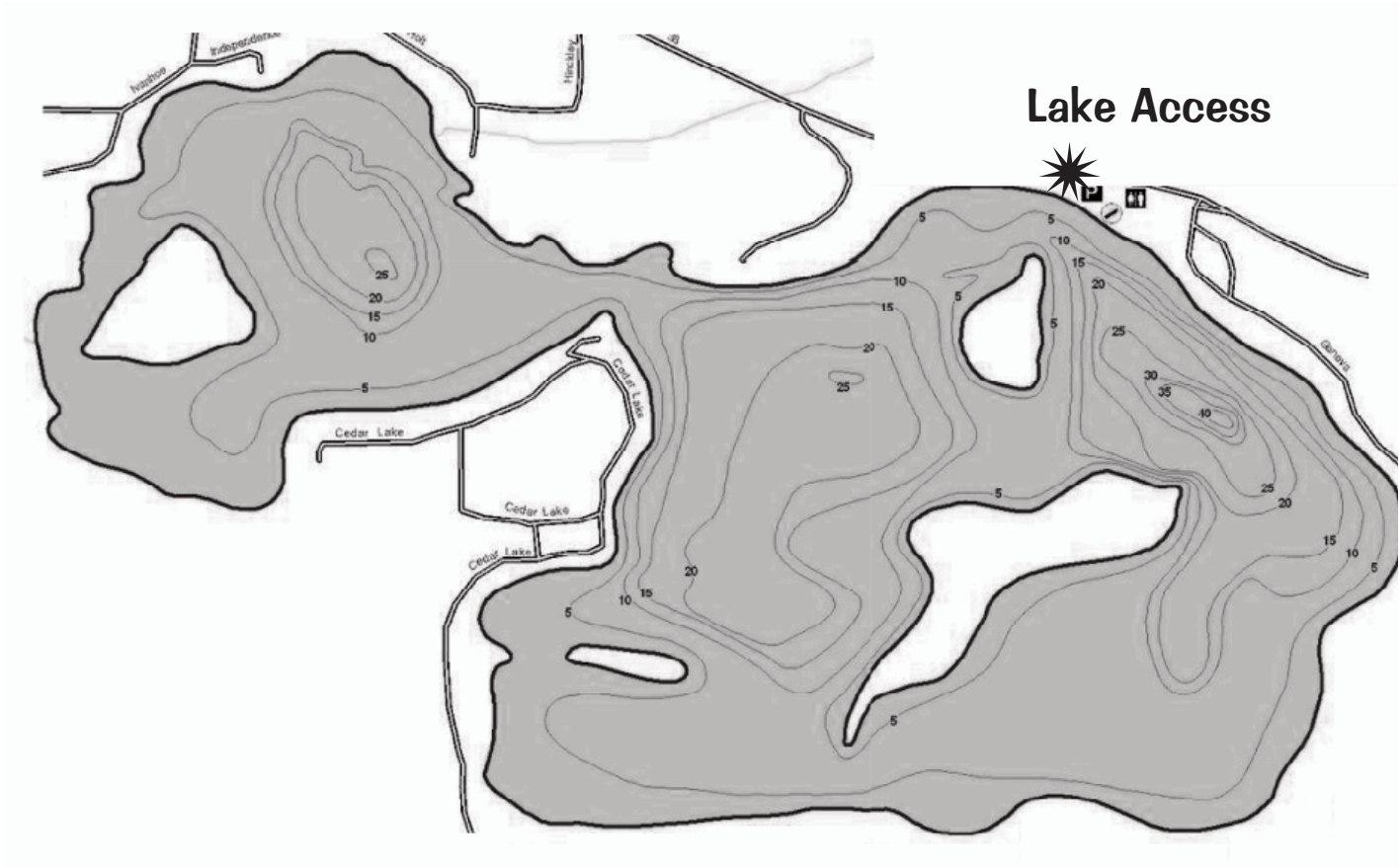
Bait

Live or artificial bait works for ice fishing. Try wax worms, maggots, spikes, or minnows. Drop your bait and leave it alone, or jig it to attract fish. Jigging is most successful if a lure is used with bait. If you don't like using live bait, try artificial bait like "Gulp." The bait comes in a variety of colors and shapes and is made to resemble live bait. For bigger fish, a larger hook with larger live bait like minnows or smelt is frequently used.

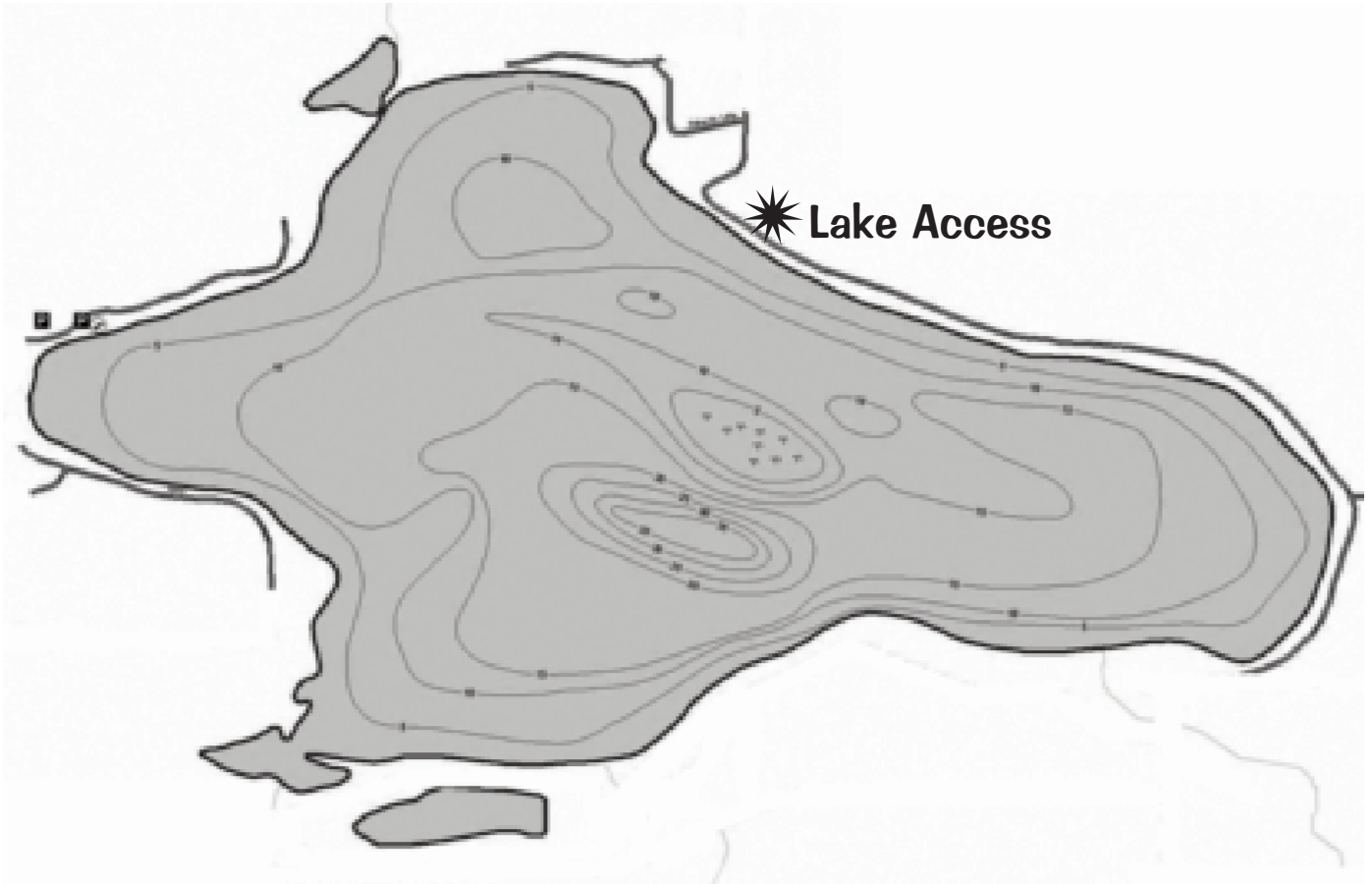
Area Bait Shops

The following businesses have nearly everything you need for a day of ice fishing:

- **Cabela's**, Hwy. 35, Owatonna
- **Nagel's Bait**, 7th St. NW, Faribault
- **John's Bait & Tackle**, 7th St. NW, Faribault
- **Lake Country Convenience & Bait**, Hwy. 21, Faribault, near Lake Mazaska, Faribault



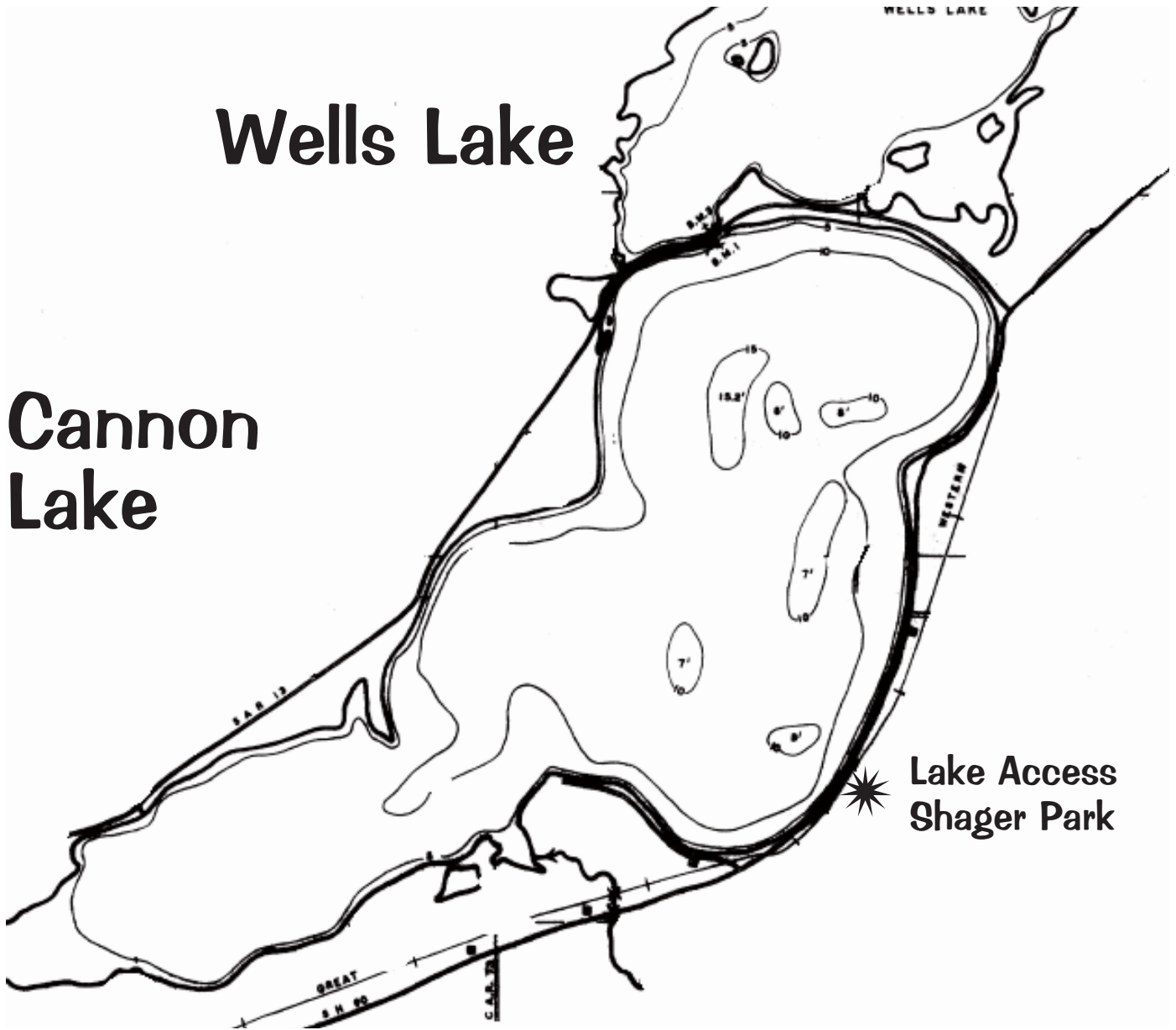
Cedar Lake



Roberds Lake

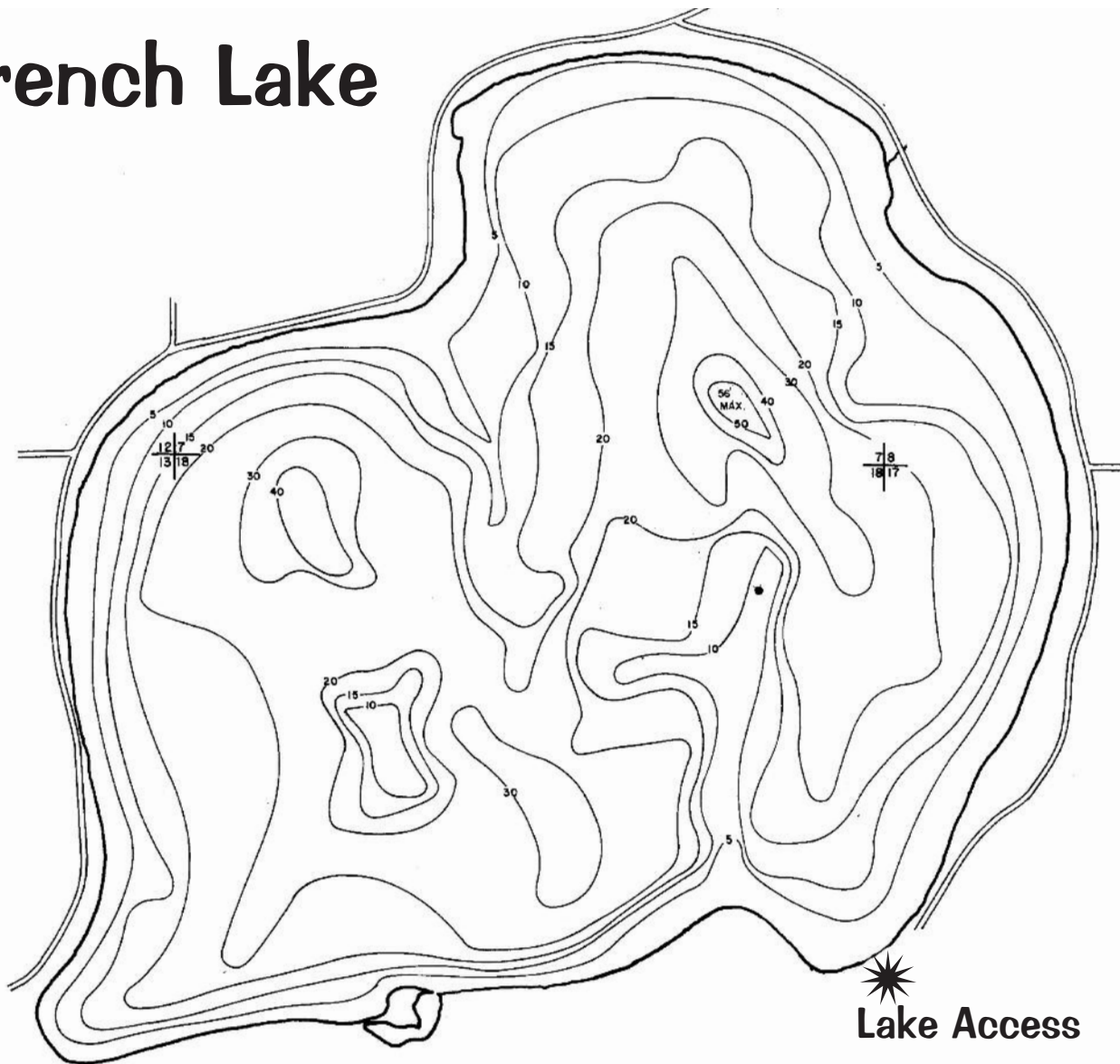
Wells Lake

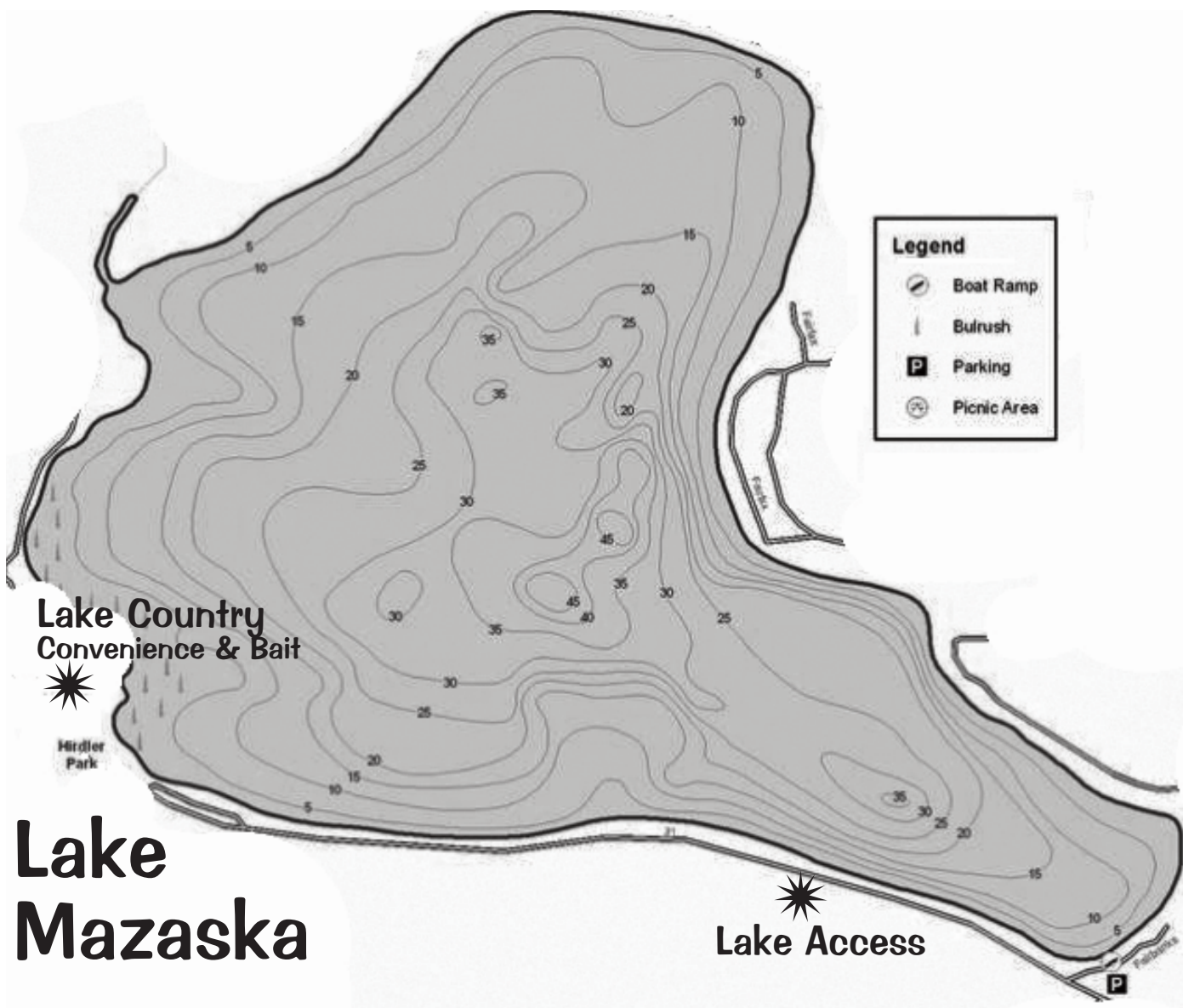
**Cannon
Lake**



**Lake Access
Shager Park**

French Lake





Lake Country
Convenience & Bait



Hirdler
Park

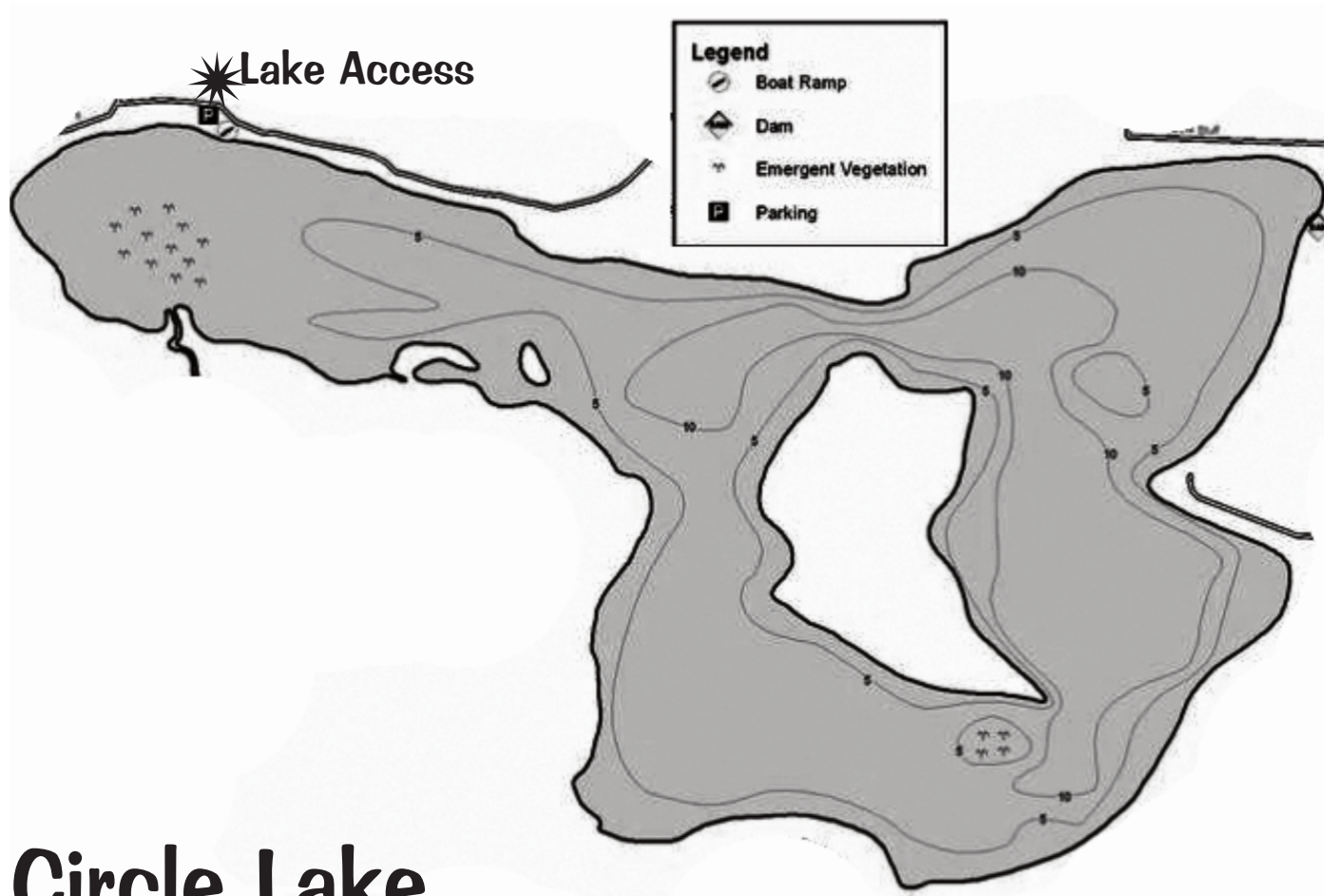
Lake Mazaska



Lake Access



Fallbrook



Cabela's®

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3900 Cabela Drive N.W., Owatonna, MN Ph. 507.451.4545

www.cabelas.com

Faribault PARK & REC



15 W. Division St., Faribault, MN Ph. 507.334.2064

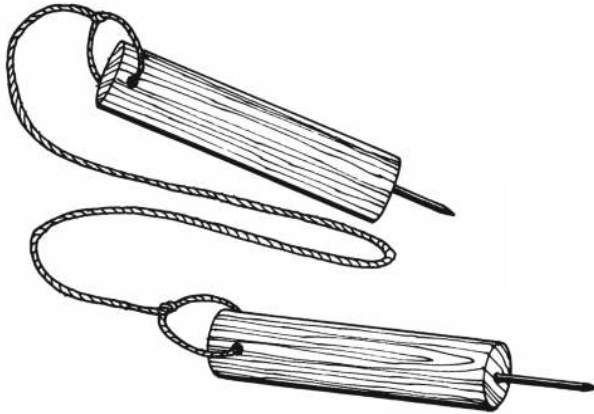
www.faribault.org/parks



Make a Pair of Ice Safety Picks

- 1.) Need two 4-5 inch wooden dowel, size of a broom handle.
- 2.) Drive a 16 penny nail into each end of the dowel rod.
- 3.) Sharpen the ends of the nail heads to a point.
- 4.) Drill a 1/4" hole in ends of dowel for a length of cord to go through.
- 5.) Cut a piece of cord 3-4 feet long, thread through dowel holes.

Basic Fishing Safety Gear



1.) Hot Chocolate and Snacks

2.) Band-Aids

3.) Hand Warmers

Warm hands and feet.

4.) Personal Flotation Device

Seat cushion-type PFA is used to rescue someone if they fall in the water. Tie a rope to it.

5.) Sled with Rope

Carry gear and/or a person, if necessary.

6.) Wool Blanket/Sleeping Bag

Warm anyone who gets wet or cold.

8.) Cell Phone To make calls for help.

9.) Ice Safety Picks

One set per person to rescue yourself in case you fall through the ice. Make your own!

10.) Sunscreen & Sunglasses

Sunburn is caused from sunlight not heat, glare from the ice and snow intensifies the sunlight and the potential for sunburn.