



LAKE VARNER



This 850-acre reservoir is about two miles northeast of Covington on Alcovy Road (Exit 92 off Interstate 20). The Newton County Parks and Recreation Department manages Lake Varner. Gasoline motors are not allowed on the lake.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Newton County for more information, including regulations, hours of operation and current fee pricing by calling (770) 784-2049.

BOAT RAMPS

A boat ramp is available in the park area.

FEES

Newton and Walton County residents: No charge
 All out of county residents: \$5 per boat and \$5 per vehicle

PARK HOURS

April-October 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.; November-March 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

ABOUT

Angling prospects are compiled by fisheries biologists and are based on sampling efforts of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), knowledge of past fishing trends, angling experience and information provided by anglers and marina owners. For more information, contact the Wildlife Resources Division, Social Circle Fisheries office: ph. 770-918-6418.

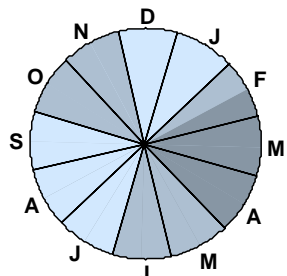
FISHING QUICK LINKS

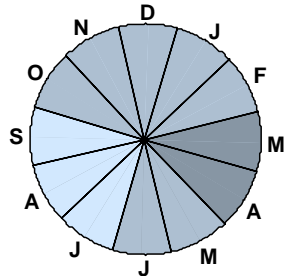
- [REGULATIONS](#)
- [LICENSES](#)
- [SPECIES INFO](#)
- [FISH CONSUMPTION](#)
- [KIDS FISHING INFO](#)
- [INVASIVE SPECIES](#)
- [ANGLER AWARD PROGRAM](#)
- [BOAT RAMP LOCATOR](#)
- [GO FISH GEORGIA](#)
- [WEATHER.COM](#)

FISHING PROSPECTS FOR LAKE VARNER

BEST BETS: LARGEMOUTH BASS, CRAPPIE & HYBRID STRIPED BASS

LARGEMOUTH BASS		
Prospect	Abundance and quality of largemouth bass have remained in the good to excellent range for the past few years. The most recent electrofishing survey indicates that about 1/3 of the fish are 14 inches or larger. In the spring and fall, Varner offers a great opportunity to catch a 5-plus-pound bass. Practice selective harvest to improve bass quality by harvesting smaller, legal fish (bass at least 12 inches) and releasing larger bass (those greater than 18 inches)	
Technique	Popular lures include topwater baits, soft plastics, swim baits, jerkbaits, spinnerbaits and jigs. These baits can be fished around grass mats, stumps and lay-down trees. Crankbaits and suspending jerk baits around cover or structure in addition to jig-and-pig combinations is effective in late winter and early spring. In late spring, try topwater lures, floating worms and soft plastic shad imitations like flukes or bass assassins. Plastic worms and deep diving crankbaits are ideal for summer, and spinnerbaits work well in fall.	
Target	During winter months, use crankbaits, spinnerbaits, swimbaits and jigs around the edges of grass and around other shoreline cover. In spring and summer, concentrate on fishing grass beds and mats. Use weedless lures such as topwater frogs and soft baits.	

CRAPPIE		
Prospect	The population is in good condition. The best time to fish for crappie is in the winter and early spring, especially in April, depending on water temperatures.	
Technique	Minnnows and jigs are recommended.	
Target	Early in the season, fish in deeper water near the creek channels and dam area. In the spring, focus on more shallow water as temperatures approach 60 degrees (F), and target the upper end of the two major tributaries for spawning fish.	

HYBRID BASS		
Prospect	Numbers of fish were up during the 2008 gill net survey. Expect good numbers of fish in the 14 to 16-inch range, however, catches over 20 inches (6-8 pounds) are very common.	
Technique	Live bait, jigging spoons, rooster tails, rattle traps and small crankbaits are recommended.	
Target	Fish in deeper water near the creek channels and dam area. Keep an eye to the surface as hybrid striped bass chase shad around the surface, providing some exciting fishing action.	

BREAM	
Prospect	Bluegill and redear sunfish are in high abundance during the first spawn of the season in May. Unfortunately, gizzard shad (an undesirable species), have recently become established in the lake and will likely have a negative effect on the fishery, particularly the bluegill fishery, in the coming years.

Best Fishing Times Calendar Key: Fair:  Good:  Excellent: 