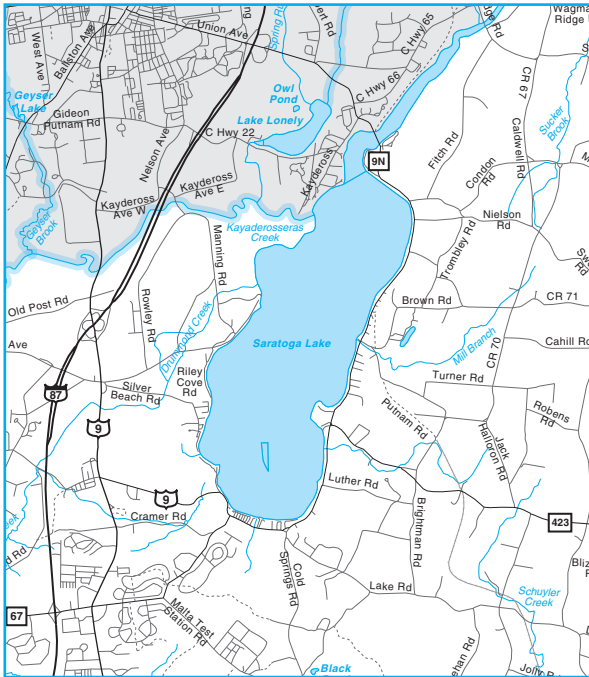


SARATOGA LAKE

Saratoga County



Area map page(s): 172-173
Area map coord: C,H-1,3
Nearest town: Saratoga Lake
Lat/Long: 430610/733812
Watershed: Upper Hudson

Elevation: 204 feet
Shorelength: 23 miles
Surface area: 4,028 acres
Maximum depth: 95 feet
Mean depth: 25 feet

Accessibility: State-owned public access, with hard-surface ramp, off Union Ave on the north shore; parking for 40 cars and trailers (overflow parking available)

Accommodations: Camping, marinas, boat rental, shore fishing, fishing pier

Species present: Walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, crappie, yellow perch, bullhead, pumpkinseed sunfish, carp, rock bass, redbreast sunfish, bluegill, black crappie

FISH STOCKING DATA

year	species	size (inches)	# released
97	Walleye	0.4	8,678,000
98	Walleye	0.4	8,678,000
00	Walleye	0.4	8,678,000
01	Walleye	0.4	8,678,000
02	Walleye	0.4	8,678,000
03	Walleye	0.4	8,678,000

FISHING INFORMATION: It seems as though everywhere you turn in New York State history jumps out at you. At Fort Ticonderoga, for example, the Continental Army captured the big cannon that drove the Redcoats from Boston. Nearby, Benedict Arnold lost the famous naval battle on Lake Champlain in 1776 but prevented further British occupation of the state that year. The following year, American troops defeated the British regulars in the battle of Saratoga, a skirmish that proved to be the turning point in the Revolutionary War. Later, the Saratoga area became better-known for its mineral springs and for its horse track. But there's also Saratoga Lake, 4,028 acres of nice water that's well worth a visit in its own right. Back in colonial days, Saratoga Lake was considered a top trout and salmon producer, but 19th-century development did in the salmonid fishery. Eurasian milfoil has become something of a problem, but plant-eating weevils have been stocked in an attempt to mitigate the difficulty. Despite the problems, there's a pretty nice coolwater and warmwater fishery. The Department of Environmental Conservation stocks about 8.6 million walleye fry annually, and some good catches are being made. In fact, Tim Blodgett of Saratoga Tackle, 1456 Route 9P, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, (518) 584-3952, can't say enough good things about the lake. He says he and many others consider 4,028-acre Saratoga to be "a fish factory" and one of the five best fishing lakes in New York. The lake not only offers many species of sportfish to choose from, but many run large. Although sharp drop-offs are somewhat scarce, Saratoga had a wide range of bottom contour changes to help concentrate fish. The lake also has several small points and shallow coves — and plenty of water for fish to live in, as the big hole toward the north end drops away to more than 90 feet. But there's also some shallow water along the shoreline and toward the south end for those fish species that like warmer water and weeds. Blodgett says you will find good numbers of largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleyes, pickerel, crappies, perch and bluegills. Saratoga is the home to several bass tournaments each year, and it is not unusual for the winner to catch six fish weighing a total of about 25 pounds. Blodgett says an average largemouth will weigh 1.5 to 3 pounds, but plenty of bigmouths run 5 pounds, and it is not uncommon for fish of 6 or 7

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED

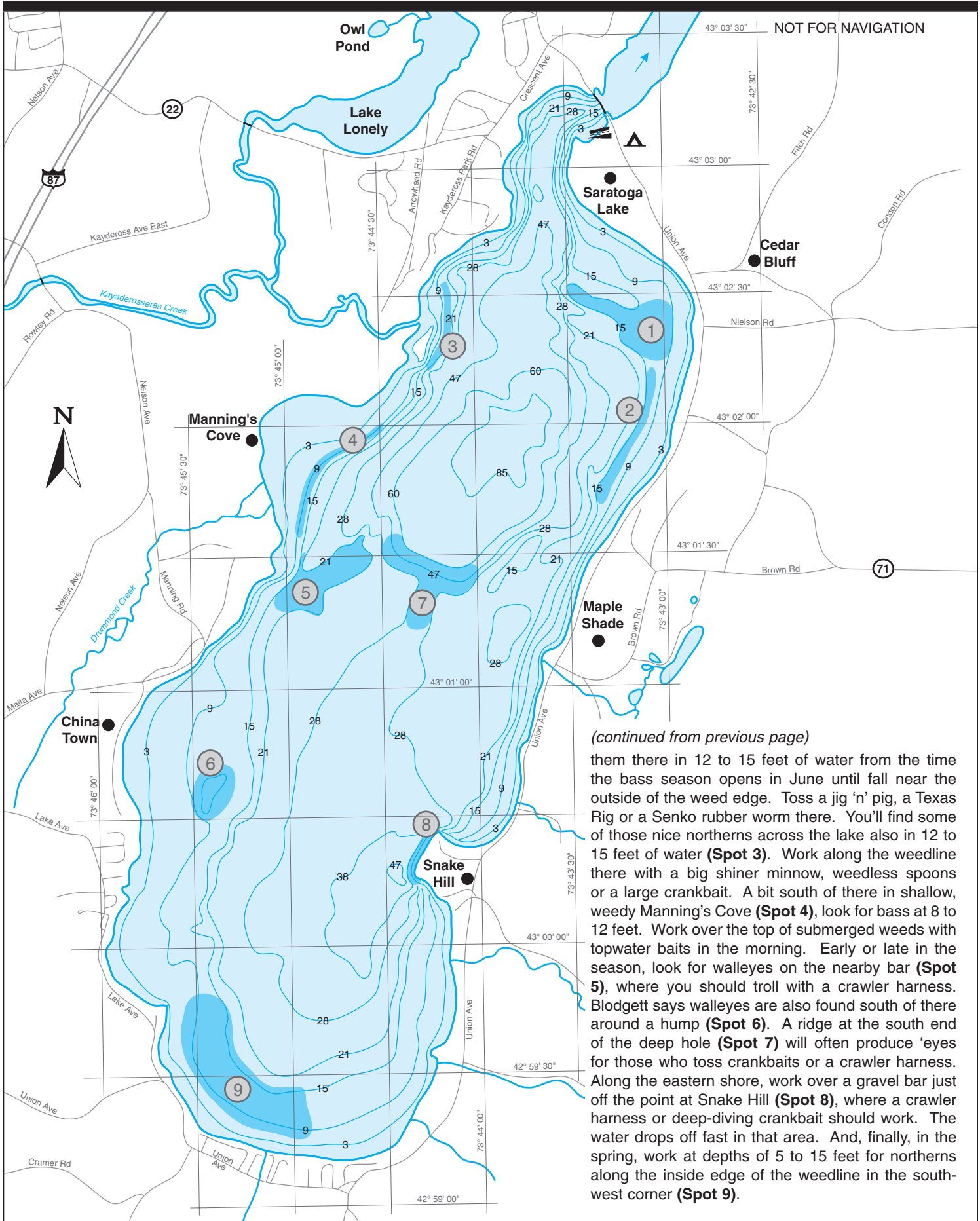
Date: 5/21/93 **Method:** Electrofishing Boat

Number of fish caught for the following length categories (inches):

species	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	>30	Total
Northern Pike	-	-	-	-	2	7	3	4	16
Chain Pickerel	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Goldfish	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Common Carp	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
White Sucker	-	1	-	6	8	1	-	-	16
Brown Bullhead	-	1	1	22	10	-	-	-	34
Rock Bass	2	22	11	-	-	-	-	-	35
Redbreast Sunfish	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pumpkinseed	21	379	-	-	-	-	-	-	400
Bluegill	25	267	22	-	-	-	-	-	314
Smallmouth Bass	2	6	20	29	10	-	-	-	67
Largemouth Bass	1	17	37	133	64	1	-	-	253
Black Crappie	7	183	226	2	-	-	-	-	418
Yellow Perch	31	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	34
Walleye	-	-	1	8	12	4	-	-	25

pounds to be caught. The smallmouths average maybe 1 to 2.5 pounds, but many are caught at 4 to 5 pounds. Pike, meanwhile, average 3 to 7 pounds, but it is not unusual for an angler to bring in one of 12 to 14 pounds. Walleyes, meanwhile, aren't huge, by and large, tending to run 1.5 to 3 pounds. Again, though, there are larger ones out there. It's not unusual, in fact, for an angler's live well to contain 5- and 6-pounders. The pickerel run about the same size as the walleyes, and crappies and 'gills run mostly from 8 ounces to a pound, but bigger specimens are caught in spring and winter. The perch, too, can get big — as big as 2 pounds, with the biggest ones being caught in winter. Blodgett highly recommends an ice-fishing visit to the lake. Some nice panfish are caught near a buoyed bar off Cedar Bluff (**Spot 1**) in early spring. You can often find largemouth bass off nearby Franklin Beach (**Spot 2**). Look for

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them there in 12 to 15 feet of water from the time the bass season opens in June until fall near the outside of the weed edge. Toss a jig 'n' pig, a Texas Rig or a Senko rubber worm there. You'll find some of those nice northerns across the lake also in 12 to 15 feet of water (**Spot 3**). Work along the weedline there with a big shiner minnow, weedless spoons or a large crankbait. A bit south of there in shallow, weedy Manning's Cove (**Spot 4**), look for bass at 8 to 12 feet. Work over the top of submerged weeds with topwater baits in the morning. Early or late in the season, look for walleyes on the nearby bar (**Spot 5**), where you should troll with a crawler harness. Blodgett says walleyes are also found south of there around a hump (**Spot 6**). A ridge at the south end of the deep hole (**Spot 7**) will often produce 'eyes' for those who toss crankbaits or a crawler harness. Along the eastern shore, work over a gravel bar just off the point at Snake Hill (**Spot 8**), where a crawler harness or deep-diving crankbait should work. The water drops off fast in that area. And, finally, in the spring, work at depths of 5 to 15 feet for northerns along the inside edge of the weedline in the southwest corner (**Spot 9**).