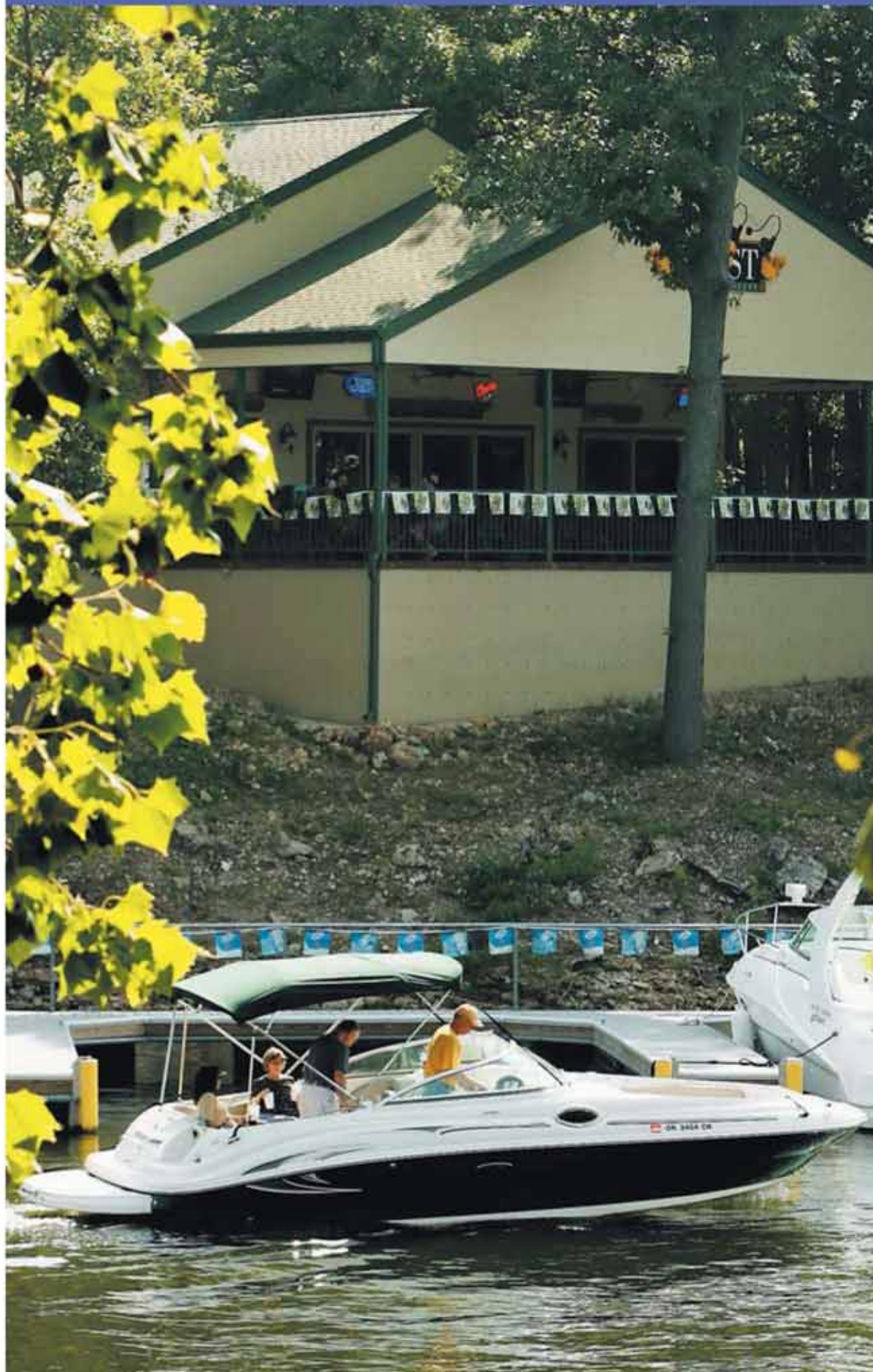


from the cover

SPOT



LAKE FOOD

Sure, you could go to the lake with a cooler full of goodies, but there's just something about stopping at a joint where the food's as good as a fightin' bass at the end of your line. We asked a few of our colleagues, and others in-the-know, about where to find the best grub around area lakes. Grab your napkins.

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Tulsa World



Canebrake

The Bayliners

The nicest of the nice; please no sleeveless T's

The Lighthouse Supper Club

Near Grand Lake at Highway 85 & Main, Ketchum, (918) 782-3316

"A throwback to another era. A dimly lit supper club with good steaks." — John Klein, Tulsa World senior sports columnist

The Canebrake

Near Fort Gibson Lake at 33241 E. 732nd Road, Wagoner, (918) 485-5791

"Everything we had was incredible, but the bruschetta is worth mentioning. And the desserts. Nice Sunday brunch, too. It is a family-owned spa, restaurant, getaway. You feel like you get to know them all while you are there. It's casual elegance and superb food at the lake." — Karen Hamilton Fraser, Philbrook Museum employee

Pier 51 Hard Dock Cafe

On Lake Keystone at 1926 S. Highway 151, Mannford, (918) 865-5106

"Hand-breaded onion rings, fried pickles (which I was forced to try, and surprisingly liked them), steak fingers, catfish are all very, very good. They also have karaoke every Saturday night. There's an outdoor patio on the lake and full bar. I think it's a fun place." — Becky Bushyhead, Tulsa stay-at-home mom

Leon's Lakeside Grill

On Skiatook Lake at CrossTimbers Marina, 12301 CrossTimbers Marina Drive, (918) 288-2300

"Great view of the lake and friendly staff." — Steve Guy, Skiatook Lake Association president

Oliver's Twist at the Decks

On Grand Lake at Highway 28, Disney, two miles east of Spillways

"Just like the Tulsa version, only with people in swimsuits and sunburns." — John Klein, Tulsa World senior sports columnist

Oliver's Twist — at least the one on Grand Lake — is accessible by boat and car.



Nannie's at the Fin

Pontoons & Runabouts

Family fare, bring your kids and your sunburn

Your Place

Near Grand Lake, on the corner at the intersection of highways 125 and 59, Afton, (918) 257-8425

"Anything smoked. They've added a choice for a smaller prime rib special on Saturdays so \$14.95 for 9 ounces; \$19.95 for 12-14 ounces. Best to get there before 7 p.m. if you like it medium rare, after 7 p.m. if you like it more well done.

"It has a homey mom-and-pop feel to it, and it's in a handy spot between the lake and the interstate." — Kelly Bostian, Tulsa World outdoors writer

Rooster & Rose Sports Pub & Grill

Near Lake Keystone off U.S. 412 near the Bears Glen exit, Cleveland, (918) 243-5242

"Philly cheese steak sub and fried mushrooms. (Yum.) It has laid-back atmosphere with great music — the juke box is full of great stuff, plus live entertainment is always good." — Diana Tilley-Esparza, Cleveland Chamber of Commerce executive director

Nannie's at the Fin

Near Lake Tenkiller at Fin and Feather Resort, Route 1, Box 194, Gore; 11 miles north of Interstate 40, just west of the Arkansas state line, (918) 487-5148

"The buffet is incredible and they have different themes for the buffet on different nights. The breakfast buffet includes an omelette station. If you're not in a buffet state of mind, they also have a soda shop." — Jimmie Tramel, World sports writer

Pensacola Pizza & Pasta

Near Grand Lake at 592 Highway 28, Langley, (918) 782-3333

"Good pizza that they will bring down to the dock. You never have to leave your seat in the boat." — John Klein, Tulsa World senior sports columnist



Backroads Bar & Grill

The Bass Buggies

A little gritty, but maybe the best of 'em all

Backroads Bar & Grill

Near Grand Lake at Grand Lake Town Road, south of Ketchum, (918) 782-2287

"The best hamburgers on the lake. No doubt." — John Klein, Tulsa World senior sports columnist

Hugo's Family Restaurant

Near Oologah Lake at 1217 Archer Drive, Claremore, (918) 341-2927

"The bacon-and-egg breakfast. You get a huge pile of fried potatoes (not hash browns) and a choice of a biscuit and gravy or toast. The portions are mind-boggling. I got two to-go orders of bacon and eggs there once, took it home and counted 20 pieces of bacon. If you order ham, you get a slab.

"It's all about the food. You walk out of there looking pregnant." — Jimmie Tramel, World sports writer

Gambino's Pizza

Near Lake Tenkiller at 1100 N Main St., Gore, (918) 489-2828

"After a long morning of casting a fly to trout on the lower Illinois River, the all-you-can-eat-special all tastes good!" — Scott Hood, fly fisherman

The Chicken Coop

Near Grand Lake at Highway 82 N, Langley, (918) 782-9017

"As you would imagine, great fried chicken. Also, fantastic breakfasts." — John Klein, Tulsa World senior sports columnist



Fried chicken from The Chicken Coop.