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## Discovering summer's best-kept secret Up I-49 lies a public landing where boaters, fishermen and jetskiers can all enjoy access to Dubuisson Lake.

by Cheré Coen

Do you ever turn a corner and find a treasure and wonder how you never noticed it before?

About an hour north of Lafayette on Interstate 49 is a well-lighted rest area with picnic tables and restrooms overlooking Lake Dubuisson, the perfect spot to stretch your legs, grab a cold Coke or enjoy a car nap. Nothing out of the ordinary here.

Yet, turn south off Exit 34 and you bypass the rest area and emerge on to a large recreational area with boat access.

The day I decided to turn right at the "Recreation Area" sign, within a few hundred yards I found all kinds of pleasure seekers in boats and jet skis having a grand time transversing the wide body of water. On shore is a large parking lot where many people barbecued and relaxed in the sun.

Louisiana tourism doesn't promote this gem within spitting distance of I-49, and Dubuisson Lake doesn't produce a lot of information on the Internet, but St. Landry tourism folks assured me it was public property and the boat launches are available to all boaters and fishermen. And from the post at [www.louisianasportsman.com](http://www.louisianasportsman.com), Dubuisson Lake seems to be the most popular with jet ski enthusiasts and speed boaters. Fishermen prefer the farther shores of the lake for sac-a-lait, but I would doubt they frequent much in the summer with all the activity.

To reach Dubuisson Lake, travel 11 miles north past Washington on I-49 and turn right at Exit 34.

### Pools are open

Some Louisiana state parks offer swimming pools for day use during the summer, an inexpensive way to cool off and enjoy nature at the same time. They include Chicot in Ville Platte, North Toledo Bend in Zwolle and a wave pool at Bayou Segnette State Park in Westwego outside of New Orleans.

The following are hours and admission fees to those closest to Acadiana:

- **Bayou Segnette State Park**, 7777 Westbank Expressway, Westwego. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Photo by Cheré Coen

**On a hot summer day, Dubuisson Lake is abuzz with watercraft. The area has become a popular recreation spot despite little promotion from the state's tourism agency.**

Tuesday through Sunday. Fees: \$8 adults, \$6 children under 4 feet.

- **Chicot State Park**, 3469 Chicot Park Road, Ville Platte. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Fee: \$1.

- **North Toledo Bend State Park**, Hwy. 3229, Zwolle. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Fee: \$1.

- Nearby state parks with designated beach swimming areas include **Cypremort Point State Park** east of Franklin, **Grand Isle State Park** and **South Toledo Bend State Park** near Anacoco. All beach areas are open daily without lifeguard supervision and cost \$1 per person for day use.

- **Lake Fausse Pointe State Park** near Loreauville has water playground facilities for children, open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information on Louisiana's State Parks, go to [lastateparks.com](http://lastateparks.com).

## Summer reading

What's a great summer vacation without a good book? Here are a couple of June releases to bring along for the ride.

- **How to Score** by New Orleans's Robin Wells begins with FBI Special Agent Chase Jones covering for his psychologist brother. When a female client calls asking for assistance in the dating department, Jones can't resist offering some advice. But when he falls for the museum curator, how will he explain the deception without breaking her heart?

- Four author friends join forces in a mountain cabin when one has to face a publishing deadline, ultimately producing a collaborative work that becomes a runaway hit in **The Accidental Bestseller** by Atlanta's Wendy Wax.

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