

FISHING HOLE

LITTLE STONE LAKE

BY JOE SHEAD

WHY GO: Little Stone Lake, located north of Two Harbors, provides a good largemouth bass fishery in an area where largemouths aren't particularly common. Northern pike are also abundant and fish over 30 inches are possible. Little Stone is clear enough to provide good winter pike spearing.

ACCESS: From Two Harbors, travel north on County Highway 2 for about 13 miles. Turn left on Wales Road (County Road 14) and proceed for 10 miles to Rollins. Turn left onto County Road 44 and proceed south for about three-quarters of a mile. Turn left onto Hopper Road for just under 1.5 miles, then turn left onto Stone Lake Bridge Road. Proceed 0.86 miles, then turn left onto Drummond Road. Proceed about a half-mile. The lake will be on your right and a small, gravel access—suitable for small boats—will be where the road leaves the lake. There is limited parking along the roadway. No amenities are available.

VITALS: Little Stone Lake (known locally as Stump Lake) covers 169 acres and has a maximum depth of 17 feet. The Drummond Road is an old railroad grade that dammed the lake, flooding trees. To this day, stumps are still common in the lake and provide fish habitat. The Drummond Road also creates a lengthy shore fishing opportunity, where anglers can catch bass, bluegills and

northern pike.

GAME SPECIES PRESENT: Largemouth bass, northern pike, bluegill, black crappie, yellow perch and walleye.

LARGEMOUTH BASS: With its clear water, weedy bays, old stumps and lily pad fields, Stump Lake has good largemouth bass habitat. You'll find lots of bass in the 12-inch range, with some nicer specimens in the 16- to 18-inch range. Plastic worms twitched along old stumps or weeds, chatterbaits fished across weed flats or weedless frogs hopped across lily pads will all take fish.

NORTHERN PIKE: Little Stone's shallow, weedy waters provide excellent northern pike cover. You'll find plenty of fish in the 18- to 22-inch range, and if you're lucky, you might turn up a fish over 30 inches. Spinners, spoons, chatterbaits and crankbaits fished over the weeds are sure to get plenty of strikes. The lake is popular with local spearers in the winter.

BLUEGILLS: Bluegills thrive in the lake's weedbeds and provide good action for anglers. They can often be caught from along the Drummond Road shoreline, which serves as an easy place to take kids to catch a few fish. Unfortunately, despite their abundance, 'gills generally run pretty small. You may tangle with a few pumpkinseed sunfish as well.

BLACK CRAPPIES:

Black crappies are present in Stump, but their reproduction is somewhat sporadic and they aren't as abundant as bluegills. Like bluegills, they tend to be on the small side, with an occasional fish measuring 10 inches.

YELLOW PERCH:

Perch are present in the shallow, weedy lake as well, but like the other panfish species, they're usually on the small side.

WALLEYE: Walleyes have been stocked several times over the years, but they've never taken hold. They seldom turn up on anglers' lines, but when they do, they are



usually large. It's been several years now since walleyes were stocked here, but an angler reportedly caught a 29-incher earlier this year.

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