

Lake Berryessa News

May 4, 2025

Spring is in full swing. And here comes Mother's Day!...or did you forget?

A sure sign of spring and Mother's Day at Lake Berryessa.
Mother and baby dinosaurs grazing on trees in my neighbor's yard.



Watching the most famous circular waterfall in the world!

Glory Hole Watch 2025 Is Over! (5/4/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 439.86 feet, 1.7 inches below Glory Hole. The spill level reached **0 cfs** on **5/2/25**.

Dam output has risen to 470 cfs in response to the springtime agricultural requirements of Solano County. The output will continue to rise all summer to a usual maximum of more than 700 cfs.

Days above Glory Hole (5/2/25) = 87.

Here are the 8 longest spills for Lake Berryessa...

1967-148 days

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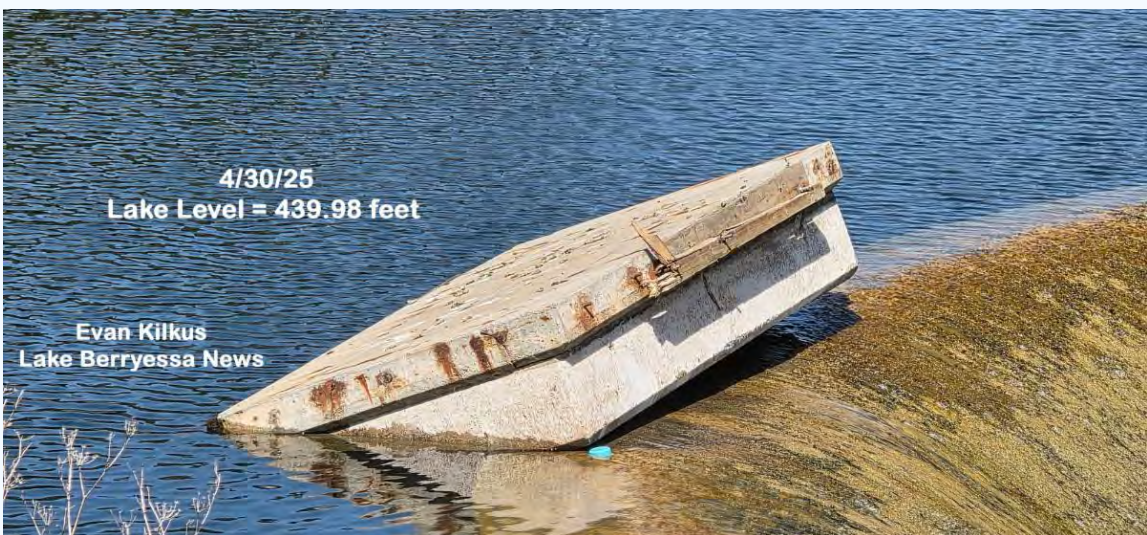
Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025

Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Rainfall total is 22.89 inches at Monticello Dam.

Lake capacity is at 1,548,650 A-F or 99.3%.







Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Update (5/4/25)

Not too much news to share. The Camp Margaritaville Resorts planning process for the Steele Canyon Recreation Area appears to be in its final planning phase. A comprehensive plan may be ready for presentation at the Napa County Board of Supervisors meeting in early June, perhaps at the June 3 Supervisors meeting.

It will be very important for Lake Berryessa revitalization supporters to attend the plan presentation meeting. The Lake Berryessa News will assist in organizing a strong, positive response. The LBNews is aware of behind-the-scenes lobbying by the Napa Sierra Club and other elitist, psuedo-environmental exclusionists to derail any proposed plan.

These "nimby-adjacent" types are still falsely claiming that the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program doesn't even exist, and if there is such a thing, it violates the Napa County General Plan - which is patently false. I wrote a report last year that presents the facts:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Lake-Berryessa-Support-Documentation/The-Lake-Berryssa-Revitalization-Program-Explained.pdf>

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Lake-Berryessa-Support-Documentation/Lake-Berryessa-and-the-Napa-General-Plan.pdf>

As for the status of the other resorts up for potential revitalization, the only news is that there are some recreation management companies nibbling at the edges of interest.

Monticello Dam: the Trash & the Fish

Last year at this time there was an unusual amount of trash below the observation area at the Hwy 128 roadside corner of the dam. But it was thoroughly cleaned up by the Solano County Water Agency and the Bureau of Relamation.

July, 2024, Hello Peter,

I wanted to spread the word that we did a SCWA/USBR cleanup at the Monticello Dam today. Our crews went behind the buoy line and gathered the trash with our boat then shuttled it to a USBR boat that was stationed on the other side of the buoy line. Once all the trash, pieces of dock, and lost buoys were collected, we shuttled it over to the Markley Cove launch ramp and loaded it into a dump trailer and truck. Thanks to our team at SCWA, USBR, and Markley Cove for allowing us to use their launch ramp we now have a clean Dam!

Jay Cuetara

Supervising Water Resources Engineer

Solano County Water Agency





This year there is no trash except the old piece of dock blown down from the lake this winter. That will be removed as soon as it safe to do so. When Evan and I photographed the dam last week, we did notice a school of fish swimming around the dam face, sometimes jumping up out of the water to grab a bite of something. It is difficult to see them in the photos. Can anyone tell what type of fish they are? Carp?







**SOMETIMES A MOM
JUST NEEDS A
5 MINUTE BREAK.**



Barbecue Season Is Here!

Most folks familiar with the Lake Berryessa region will recognize reference to the Buckhorn Steakhouse in Winters (<https://www.buckhornsteakhouse.com/>) with great prime rib and other entrees available. But just a few minutes north of Winters in Esparto is a sister company, the Buckhorn Meat Company (<https://www.buckhornmeatco.com/>) with a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/buckhornmeatco>).

Now that warm weather is back at Lake Berryssa and the lake is full, the Lake Berryssa News staff has turned on our Traeger grill and is ready to BBQ! So, we visited the Buckhorn Meat Company last week for supplies. And we weren't disappointed. Pre-marinated tri-tips and steaks at reasonable prices - a classic carnivore's delight.

Buckhorn Meat Co.

<https://www.buckhornmeatco.com/>

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Rochelle Pollard, Sales & Marketing

707-688-7200

Rochelle@buckhornmeatco.com



Along with BBQ Season Comes Gardens and Orchards

The Lake Berryessa News is a paid subscriber to Napa Valley Features (<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/>). NVF always has interesting articles about the local area.

Last week they had two special gardening articles relevant to the Lake Berryessa News headquarters above the Berryessa Highlands. We love tomatoes, basil, garlic, peppers, and avocados (tomato salad, bruschetta, salsa, guacamole) and sharing our abundance with friends and neighbors.

One article was a deep dive into growing tomatoes:

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/green-wednesday-rare-piebald-deer>

which included a link to a great detailed report from UC Davis about tomatoes:

<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8159.pdf>

Photo below shows only a small part of our weekly tomato harvests last year.



Associate editor Evan Kilkus, with the help of his sister, Hannah, and brother, Darby (pictured below in contemplation of his rattlesnake-avoidance skills), has expanded the LBNews garden and added a small orchard.





The other NVF article was about the impact of climate change on a new ability to grow avocado trees in Napa County. We had always heard, sadly, that avocado trees might not do well at Lake Berryessa. Evan did his research and found a local nursery which told him that growing avocados was possible. So he bought three avocado trees which are now in our small orchard and blooming robustly. (See photo above)

Coincidentally, the NVF article regarding avocado trees appeared:

https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/green-wednesday-rise-promotes-local?utm_source=publication-search

Changes in Climate Make Avocados in Napa Possible

By Rainer Hoenicke, UC Master Gardener of Napa County

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture updated its Plant Hardiness Zone Map, a crucial tool for gardeners selecting plants. Each zone on the map is defined by average annual minimum temperatures. A zone represents 10 F and is further subdivided by 5 F sub-zones. If a plant is hardy in a particular zone, it is likely to survive the winter there.

The nationwide average minimum temperature has increased by 2.5 F since the last map update in 2012, and about half the country shifted to a warmer sub-zone. The floor of the Napa Valley is among those areas that moved from USDA Zone 9a to Zone 9b.

The higher the zone number, the warmer the average minimum winter temperatures. To nobody's surprise, Hawaii and Puerto Rico are in Zones 12 and 13. In these tropical regions temperature differences between day and night tend to be greater than those between seasons.

Can Napa Valley residents now grow plants that we presumed could only be grown south of Point Conception? The answer is yes. Depending on location, some folks in Napa County can now grow avocados without keeping them in pots and moving them indoors in winter, and they won't have to pay through the nose for Mexican avocados.

According to a study published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, humans have been growing and improving avocados for the last 7,500 years. The Indigenous people in what we know today as Honduras were selectively breeding wild avocados to get larger fruits and thicker skins, reported The New York Times.

Avocados emerged about 400,000 years ago in central Mexico and were dispersed by ancient megafauna. By the end of the Pleistocene (about 13,000 years ago), they could be found throughout Central America and northern South America and had diversified into three different species.

Technically, hundreds of different avocado varieties exist, and almost all thrive in climates without frost. My research indicates that some varieties are now suitable for Napa Valley areas that still experience a few frosty nights each winter.

There are three broad groups of avocados: Guatemalan, Mexican and West Indian. Within each of those groups, there are many cultivars with different flavors, sizes and frost tolerance. Avocados of Mexican descent tend to be the most frost-tolerant, and the variety called Mexicola Grande can withstand short periods below 20 F. Lila, another Mexican avocado, is reputed to be even more frost-tolerant. Since I live in the heat island of Napa city, I gave avocado growing another try, after two previous failures that were probably due to insufficient drainage rather than hard freezes.

Mexicola Grande was bred to have larger fruit than Mexicola, as the name suggests. The fruits have a thin, shiny, black skin that you can eat. Their meat is sweeter, creamier and nuttier than Hass avocados. Like some other Mexican varieties, their leaves have a distinct, anise-like scent.

The Hass avocado, although first found in California, is also a Mexican avocado, and both Hass and Mexicola Grande are packed with vitamins and minerals. Mexicola Grande is slightly lower in fat than Hass. Its creamy texture makes it perfect for guacamole.

Mexicola Grande is considered an early season avocado, but when grown in California, its season ranges from October to January. Most of the crop matures all at once, the skin turning a deep purple to almost black. The fruit will drop from the tree when fully mature.

Avocados are unique among fruit trees in having two types of flowers. Type A flowers open in the morning and are ready to receive pollen. Type B flowers open in the afternoon. Most avocado trees have one type or the other, not both. The Mexicola Grande will self-fertilize, but you will get greater yield if you have a Type B variety nearby that blooms in the same season, such as Winter Mexican, Joey or Bacon.

Perhaps in the future we'll see commercial avocado orchards in Napa Valley in areas that can be dry-farmed and have good drainage.

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<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrsbkFprhy4TluE>



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4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

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Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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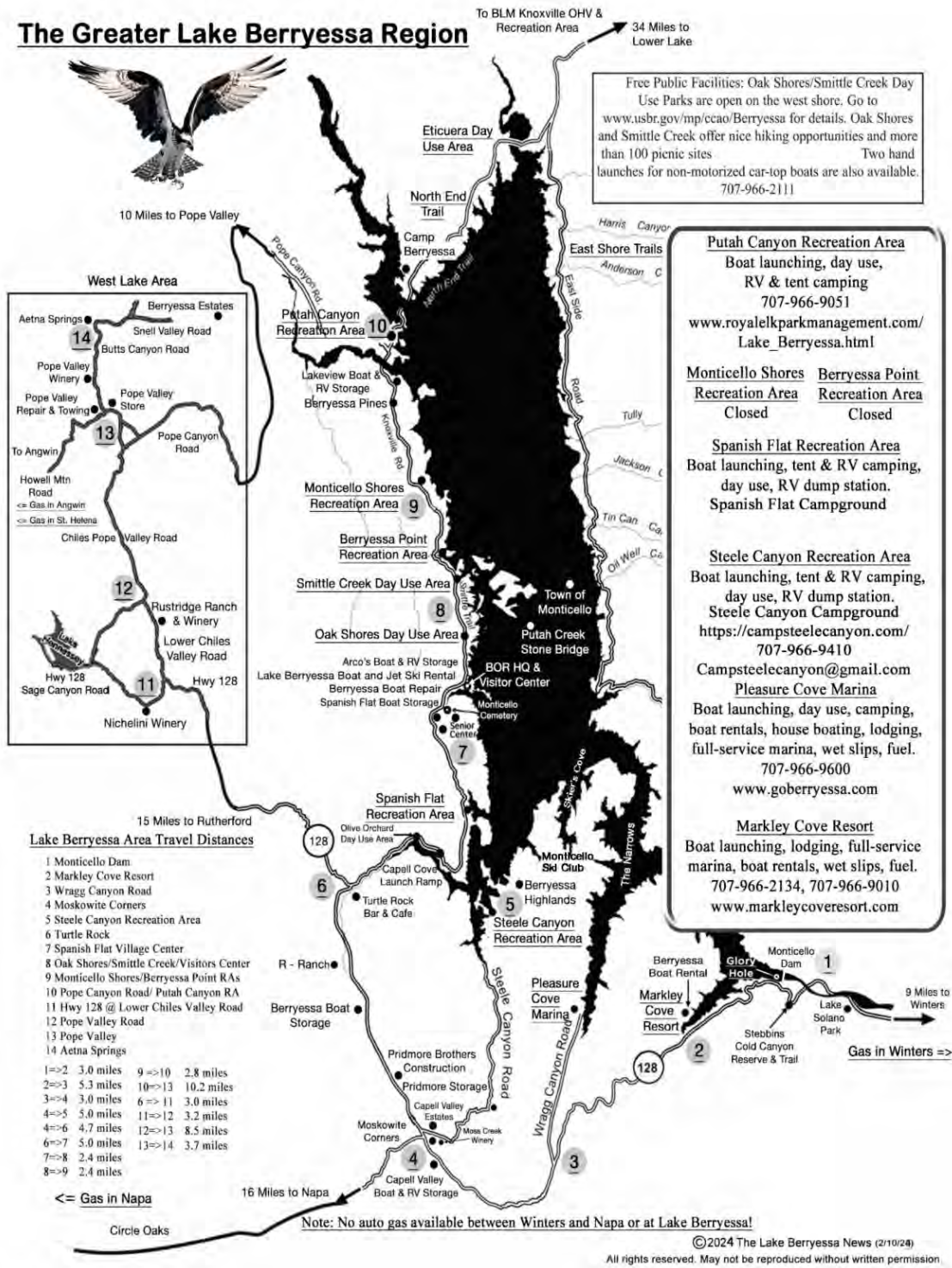
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Enjoy peace, tranquility, and STUNNING views from your expansive covered deck in this beautifully remodeled home. The open-concept living space features vaulted ceilings, a wall of windows, recessed lighting, and a chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances and quartz counters. Upstairs offers two bedrooms, updated bathrooms, and breathtaking lake views. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to own a piece of lakeview paradise. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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pkilkus@gmail.com | <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>



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Lake Berryessa News

May 11, 2025

Today is Mother's Day!...

- Being a mom to a teenager will make you understand why some animals eat their young.
- It's sad when you sit around waiting for mom to make dinner and then you realize you are the mom.
- There's nothing quite like being told I'm wrong by someone who depends on me for food, clothing, and shelter.
- Kids make a lot of plans for people who can't drive anywhere.
- I asked to switch seats on a plane because I was next to a crying baby. Evidently that doesn't work if the baby is yours.
- "Mom, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world?" "I don't know, ask your grandma!"
- "I love it when I find myself screaming 'STOP SCREAMING' at my kids. That's how I teach them irony."
- "A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He said, 'Call for backup.' "



Lake Berryessa Fish Planting, May 8, 2025

Besides people planting vegetable gardens in Spring, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife also plants fish in our lakes. This cool video is of juvenile rainbow trout being "planted" at the Steele Canyon Campground last week. 1,100 pounds of rainbow trout out of a spout. California Fish & Wildlife drops the kids off at Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzKx5G7yMrQ>

Thanks to Evan Kilkus, Lake Berryessa News Associate Editor, drone pilot, videographer, the publisher's politeness monitor, and "being in the right place at the right time" lottery winner for this video and narration.





Lake Berryessa Statistics (5/11/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 439.5 feet, 6 inches below Glory Hole.

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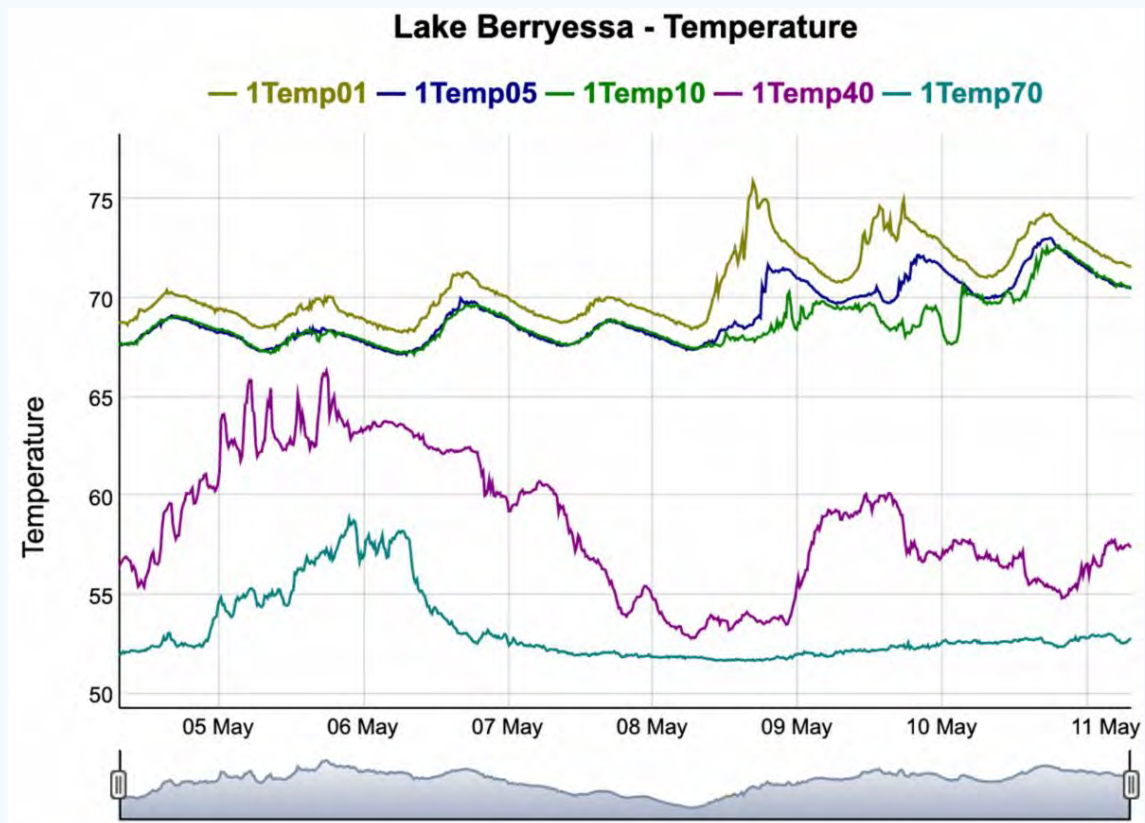
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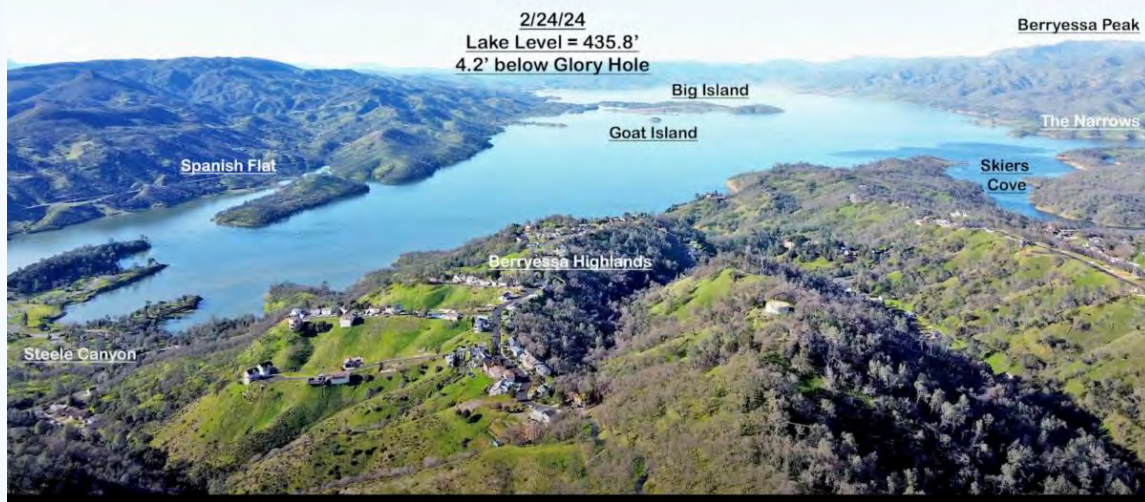
Lake temperature is almost swimmable. Those of us raised on the shore of Lake Michigan know this. When the water hit 72 degrees we were out there. Of course we had to scream (culturally required) and wait a couple of minutes until our bodies stopped shivering (onset of numbness!)



Lake Berryessa Drone Panorama

See a drone video with location names of the whole south end of Lake Berryessa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0O4avyXxgRM&t=9s>



Grebes at Lake Berryessa

I love the look of grebes. We have slowly drifted through large flocks (50 - 100) in the middle of Lake Berryessa all summer, every summer, for 20 years. No matter how slow we coast on our patio boat or jet ski through them, their deep dive flushing distance is about 15 feet. Then they surface 20+ feet away. The kids always tried to guess where they would pop up. It's nice to just sit on our stationary boat, surrounded by them, and enjoy their beauty. Here's a great story about grebes from Napa Valley Features (<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/>). The Lake Berryessa News is a subscriber.

A Reason to Bird Watch: Western and Clark's Grebes

By Kathleen Scavone

https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/green-wednesday-fragrant-roses-and?utm_source=publication-search



A western grebe displays its expert fishing skills on Lake Hennessey, grasping a silvery catch in its blade-like bill while ripples trace its graceful movement through the water. They propel themselves straight up, slender necks outstretched, wings back and literally run across the lake!

A morning walk upon the serene shores of Lake Hennessey, Lake Berryessa or the American Canyon wetlands is a delight to the senses. Busy birds of many species abound, but it's the western and Clark's grebes that I'm listening to and watching for on Lake Hennessey. As though reading my mind, a pair of graceful swan-like grebes ethereally float nearby. Their 'creeee' calls echo across the lake, then the birds take turns dipping their bills in the water. Next, they propel themselves straight up, slender necks outstretched, wings back and literally run across the lake! I have just witnessed some of the western and Clark's grebes mating rituals.



Grebes—elegant, swan-like black-and-white water birds—put on an amazing springtime or summer courting dance as they perform what is called 'rushing,' or running across the water! If you are lucky, you may observe other courtship behaviors as they dive for vegetation, then offer the green plants to their prospective mate. Later, the chicks can be seen riding on the parent's backs! Grebe chicks are precocial, meaning that they have eyesight immediately after they hatch and can swim then, too.

I contacted Floyd Hayes, Ph.D., professor of biology at Pacific Union College in Angwin, since I had some questions regarding grebes, and he specializes in the ecology, behavior and biogeography of birds. Additionally, I was familiar with his decade-long grebe studies on Clear Lake in Lake County. He has published seven research papers on the grebes of Clear Lake.

Funding for the grebe project ended in 2019, but he and his colleague Scott Butterfield have written a proposal and have some grant money to resume monitoring grebes on Clear Lake. He was kind enough to respond while in Peru with students.

Hayes explained that grebes in Napa County are present year-round at Lake Hennessey and Lake Berryessa, and he has seen grebe nests on Lake Berryessa in late June and July. Both grebe species breed in mixed colonies of western and Clark's grebes in North America and are known to interbreed. Grebes can be seen in ponds, marshes and lakes, along with estuaries and coastal areas. There are 22 species of grebes found in the world.

Western grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) at 22-30 inches appear very similar to Clark's grebes (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) at 22-29 inches, since they are both black and white. To differentiate the species, western grebes have a black cap that descends below the eye, and their bill is yellow-green. Clark's grebes wear a black cap that rises above their eye, and a yellow-orange bill. Grebes of both species dine on amphibians, crustaceans, insects and fish, most of which they stab with pointy beaks while diving.

Clark's grebes are named for John Henry Clark, who was a naturalist and surveyor in the 19th century. Western grebes are sometimes called swan-necked grebes. It's remarkable

to know that when fossils of the western grebe from North America's southwest were studied, they were determined to be from the late Pleistocene epoch. Both grebes' genus name *Aechmophorus* hails from the Greek language and translates to 'point of a spear,' referencing the birds' bladelike beak.



A quick check of the iNaturalist Napa County pages will show an amazing variety of bird species that are found in the local bird counts, and ornithologists explain that grebes are found in Napa County year round. Other bird species you may enjoy viewing include American avocet, Allen's hummingbird, green heron, American wigeon, western bluebird, bald eagle, burrowing owl, American white pelican, western meadowlark and another grebe species—the pied-billed grebe—and more.

Lake County's Clear Lake has been the focus of Hayes' fascinating grebe studies, which I discovered during a memorable boat ride courtesy of Lake County's Redbud Audubon Society on Clear Lake years ago. Audubon leaders cautioned us to steer clear, since both Clark's and western grebes were nesting. Keeping a safe distance ensures that the boat's wake does not disturb their floating nests constructed of reeds and other aquatic vegetation. We observed dozens and dozens of nests, grebes and their eggs. Grebes lay between one and seven eggs annually, with parents of both sexes alternating sitting on the nests until the eggs hatch in a little over three weeks. Hayes' grebes of Clearlake can be viewed on YouTube at: <https://www.redbudaudubon.org/the-grebes-of-clear-lake/>

"A Youtube video created by Floyd Hayes in 2017. This video documents the natural history of Western and Clark's Grebes, including courtship, mating, nesting and egg hatching. It also documents anthropogenic and natural threats to their survival, including boating, chemical pollutants, windstorms and predation."

Here's to blissful bird watching at its best! Flamboyant grebes are both beautiful and fun to watch. Watch for long-necked water birds along a meandering aquatic ecosystem as they cry out a distinctive call and perform a courtship dance to beat the band!

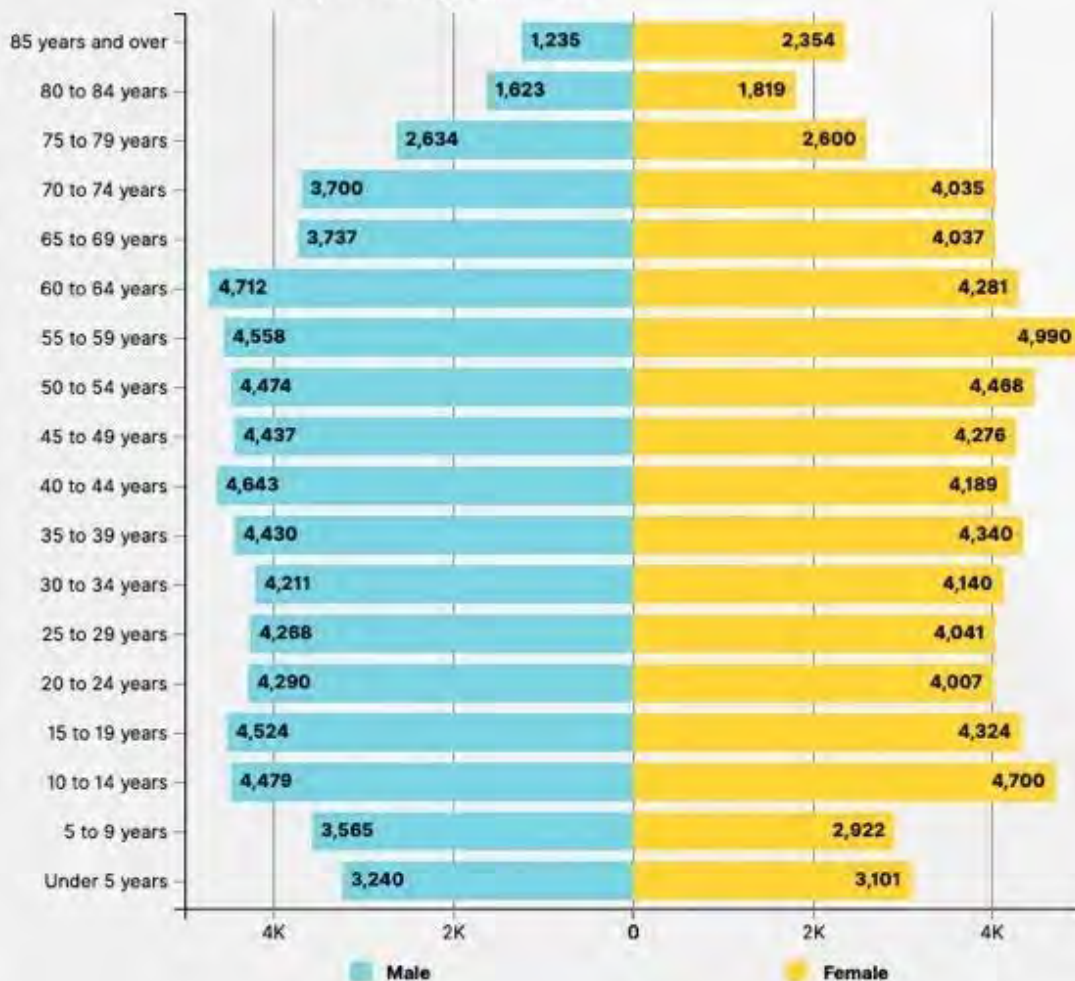
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Kathleen Scavone, M.A., retired educator, is a potter, freelance writer and author of "Anderson Marsh State Historic Park: A Walking History, Prehistory, Flora and Fauna Tour of a California State Park," "People of the Water" and "Native Americans of Lake County." She loves hiking, travel, photography and creating her single panel cartoon called "Rupert."

Where Are You on the Napa Age Chart?

If you are a "Super Senior" as am I (in more ways than one), you are not alone.

Napa County, California



S0101 | 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

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4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

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238 Manzanita Ln, Napa, CA

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4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,836 Sq Ft

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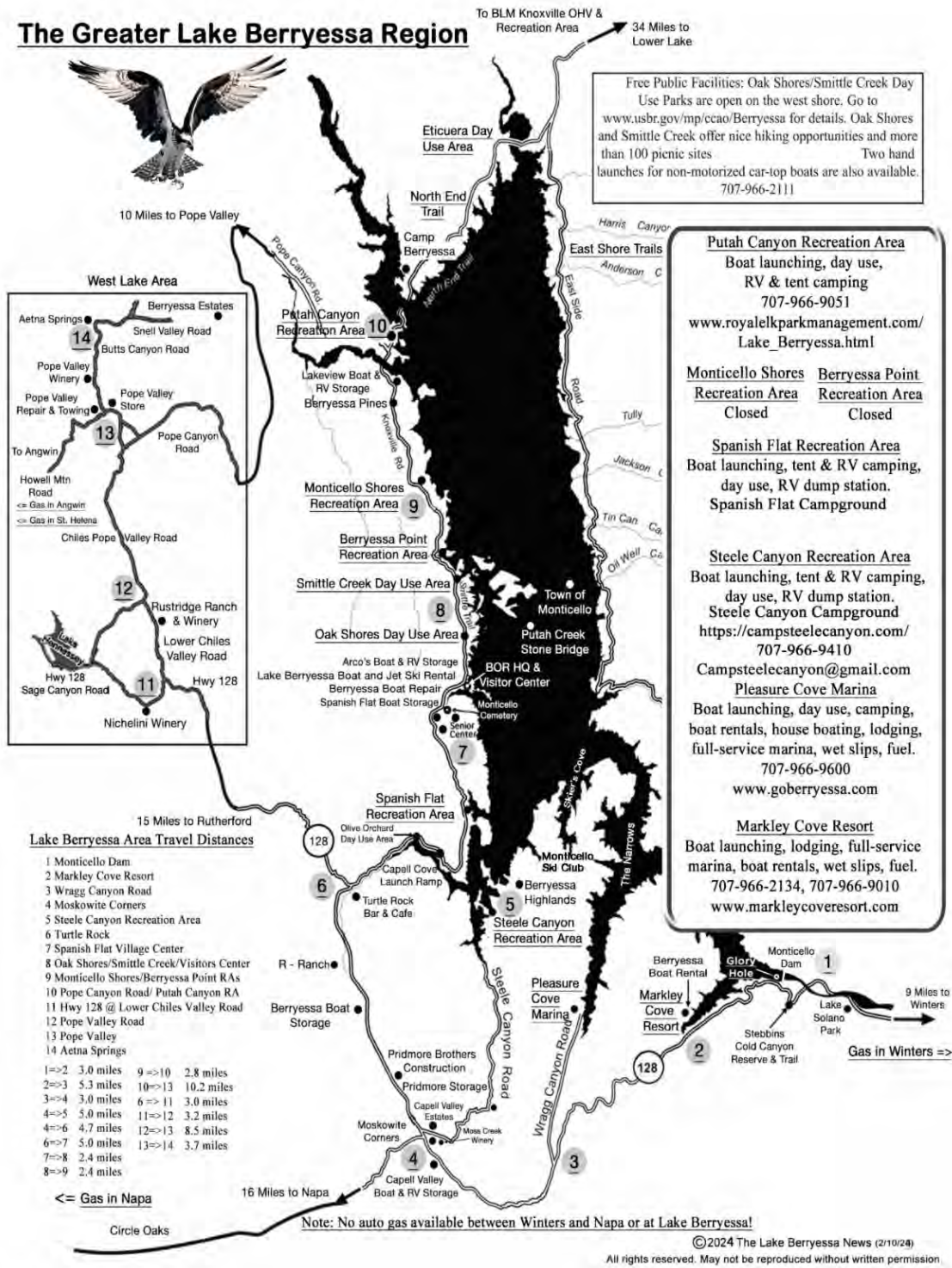


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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Lake Berryessa News

Sunday, May 18, 2025

One week until Memorial Day weekend.

The Bookends of Summer: Memorial Day & Labor Day

Weather should be fantastic at a full Lake Berryessa!!!



Lake Berryessa Statistics (5/18/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 439.22 feet, 9 inches below Glory Hole.

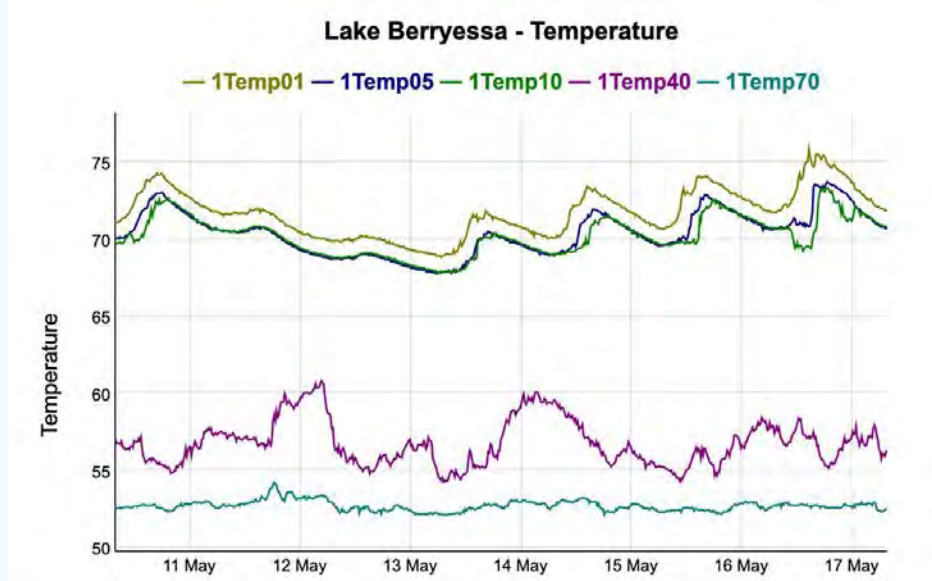
Dam output has risen to an average of 450 cfs in response to the springtime agricultural requirements of Solano County. The output will continue to rise all summer to a usual maximum of more than 700 cfs.

Days above Glory Hole (2/4/25 to 5/2/25) = 87.

Rainfall total is 22.97 inches at Monticello Dam. This should be the final total this year. The new rain season begins on July 1, 2025.

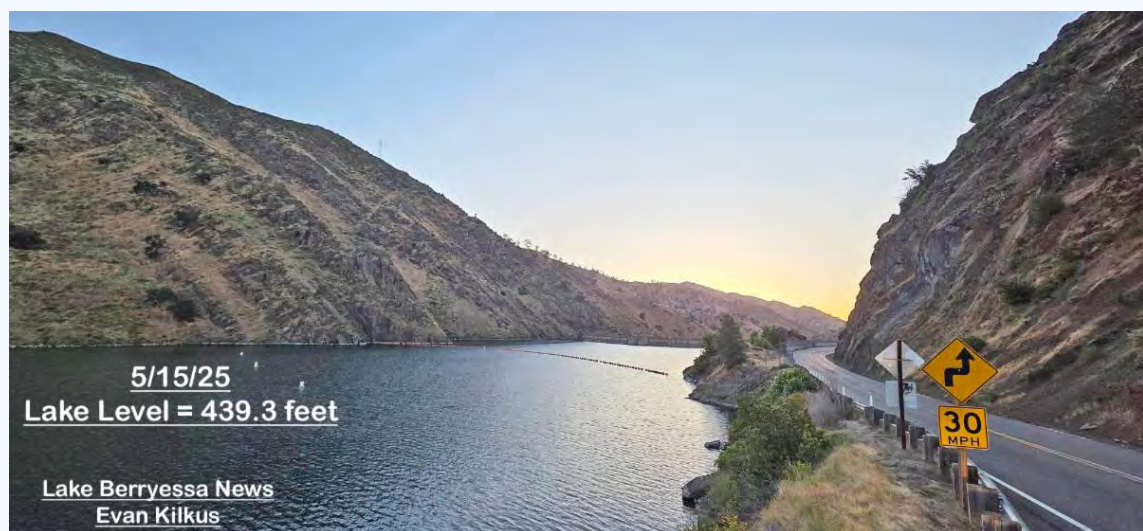
Lake capacity is at 1,536,596 A-F or 99.1%.

Lake surface temperature is about 73 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.



Morning Sunrise at Monticello Dam, 5/15/25





Lake Berryessa Conditions for Motorized Vessels **Golden Mussel Edition (May 18, 2025)**

The Bureau of Reclamation is urging guests to prepare well in advance for a day on the water this year. Conditions for motorized vessel launching have changed. Plan ahead before trailering your vessel.

Beginning in November 2024, all vessels entering Lake Berryessa must complete a free, 30-day quarantine before launching. Those already in possession of a Lake Berryessa green seal, proof of decontamination, or who plan to use vessels that are neither petroleum powered nor trailered, are exempt from the quarantine. More information on the quarantine, seal installation locations, and decontaminations may be found on the Solano County Water Agency Website: <https://scwa2.com/lake-berryessa-mussel-prevention-program/>.

*Note that if you do not have a seal for your vessel at the time of this news release, you must arrange for a decontamination before launching your vessel on Memorial Day Weekend.

Desired Date of Launch	Last Day to Install a Quarantine Seal
Memorial Day Weekend, May 24	April 23*
Father's Day Weekend, June 14	May 14
Juneteenth	May 19
July 4th	June 3
Labor Day Weekend, August 30	July 30

For Release: May 16, 2025

***Note that if you do not have a seal for your vessel at the time of this news release, you must arrange for a decontamination before launching your vessel on Memorial Day Weekend (May 24, 2025).**

Retrieve your vessel before launch ramps close: All boaters who wish to avoid a second 30-day quarantine will need to exit during launch ramp operating hours (15-30 minutes before closing). But for a few exceptions, launch ramps will close by 7 pm on weekdays and 8 pm on weekends this Summer. All boaters are advised to check with ramp operators to confirm closing times prior to departing for a day on the water.

Shore-Based Activities: For those who elect to remain on land, Lake Berryessa provides 165 miles of shoreline for day use and shore fishing. Park Rangers staffing the Dufer Point Visitor Center from 12-3 p.m. on weekends can assist with selecting a site. No charcoal barbeques are permitted lake-wide per Napa County ordinances. Use caution and wear a life jacket when in or near the water. Kayaks, canoes, and non-motorized, un-trailerred vessels do not require a quarantine or decontamination to visit Lake Berryessa.

Oak Shores Day Use Area: Starting on Memorial Day Weekend, North and South Oak Shores Day Use Areas will open for day use from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays only. On weekdays, South Oak Shores will close at 5 p.m. on and North Oak Shores will remain closed for the day.

Capell Cove Boat Launch: The Capell Cove Boat Launch is closed indefinitely while Reclamation devises a plan to staff the site.

Concession Areas: Markley Cove Resort, Pleasure Cove Marina, Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Putah Canyon, and Spanish Flat offer a variety of recreation services, including boat launching, and are alternatives to Oak Shores and Capell Cove. For information regarding services offered at concession-operated facilities, launch fees, or to make reservations, please call the concession operators or visit their websites:

Markley Cove Resort, 707-966-2134, <https://markleycove.com/>

Pleasure Cove Marina, 707-966-9600, <https://goberryessa.com/>

Steele Canyon Recreation Area, 707-966-9410, <https://campsteelecanyon.com/>

Spanish Flat Recreation Area, 707-966-0200, <https://www.campspot.com/park/spanish-flat-campground>

For information on activities, fees, directions, pet restrictions, or other questions, call the Lake Berryessa Administration Office at 707-905-7896, email the office at Berryessa@USBR.GOV or visit the Lake Berryessa website at <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/berryessa/index.html>.

A Definition of a Gentleman (Gentlewoman)

A Bit of Sunday Philosophy

Is this even possible in modern day politics and human society?

A leader in the Oxford Movement and a cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church, John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was a prolific writer and one of the most talented rhetoricians in 19th-century Britain. He served as the first rector of the Catholic University of Ireland (now University College Dublin) and was beatified by the Catholic Church in September 2010.

In "The Idea of a University," originally delivered as a series of lectures in 1852, Newman provides a compelling definition and defense of a liberal arts education, arguing that the primary purpose of a university is to develop the mind, not dispense information.

"It is almost a definition of a gentleman (woman) to say they are persons who never inflict pain. This description is both refined and, as far as it goes, accurate. They are mainly occupied in merely removing the obstacles which hinder the free and unembarrassed action of those about them...

The true gentleperson carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom they are cast; all clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment; their great concern being to make everyone at their ease and at home...

They are never mean or little in disputes, never take unfair advantage, never mistake personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuate evil...They have too much good sense to be affronted at insults, they are too well minded to remember injuries...or to bear malice. They are patient, forbearing, and resigned, on philosophical principles...

If they engage in controversy of any kind, their disciplined intellect preserves them from the blundering discourtesy of better, perhaps, but less educated minds; who, like blunt weapons, tear and hack instead of cutting clean, who mistake the point in argument, waste their strength on trifles, misconceive their adversary, and leave the question more involved than they find it.

They may be right or wrong in their opinion, but too clear-headed to be unjust; they are as

simple as they are forcible, and as brief as they are decisive. Nowhere shall we find greater candour, consideration, indulgence: they throw themselves into the minds of their opponents...They know the weakness of human reason as well as its strength, its province and its limits..."

Lake Berryessa Drone Panorama

See a drone video with location names of the whole south end of Lake Berryessa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0O4avyXxgRM&t=9s>



Bureau of Reclamation Installs Air Quality Monitoring Service at Lake Berryessa

The Bureau of Reclamation has installed a Purple Air Monitor at its Lake Berryessa field office. It provides up to date air quality right in the middle of the lake.

[https://map.purpleair.com/air-quality-standards-us-epa-aqi?
opt=%2F1%2F1p%2Fa10%2Fp604800%2Fc0#8.75/38.4642/-122.2988](https://map.purpleair.com/air-quality-standards-us-epa-aqi?opt=%2F1%2F1p%2Fa10%2Fp604800%2Fc0#8.75/38.4642/-122.2988)

With two minute updates, the US EPA PM2.5 Air Quality Index (AQI) is a number used by US government agencies to communicate to the public how polluted the air currently is or how polluted it is forecast to become.



No Charcoal BBQs Allowed at Lake Berryessa

The Bureau of Reclamation wishes to again remind the public that there are no Charcoal BBQ's allowed at Oak Shores, Smittle Creek or ANY Reclamation managed day use areas. Personal BBQ's have never been allowed lake wide for fire safety reasons....

Discover your Private Lakeview Retreat on 10+ Acres
1081 Steele Canyon Road
<https://1081steelecanyonrd.com/>
\$895,000



Escape to your very own private oasis where comfort & breathtaking lake views await. This custom 2 story home offers an unparalleled living experience within the exclusive, gated community of Oakridge Estates. The expansive 10-acre property features a natural spring and well-appointed outdoor entertainment area, creating the ideal backdrop for hosting gatherings or simply soaking in the stunning surroundings. Gourmet kitchen, complete with a Viking stove and a center island. Living room with a woodstove adds warmth and ambiance, family room offers versatility with its own woodstove, bar area, and direct access to a backyard perfect for entertaining or unwinding. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes away. Nature lovers will delight in the easy access to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Embrace a Lifestyle of Relaxation and Beauty

1104 Steele Canyon Rd.

\$579,000

<https://www.1104steelecanyonrd.com/>

<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrsbkFprhy4TJuE>



Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,295,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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238 Manzanita Ln, Napa, CA

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/238-manzanita-lane-napa-ca-94558/93990505/regionId/100>

4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,836 Sq Ft

\$665,000

Enjoy peace, tranquility, and STUNNING views from your expansive covered deck in this beautifully remodeled home. The open-concept living space features vaulted ceilings, a wall of windows, recessed lighting, and a chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances and quartz counters. Upstairs offers two bedrooms, updated bathrooms, and breathtaking lake views. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to own a piece of lakeview paradise. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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Build Your Dream Lake House

Summary of Lots Available

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>



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Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

Camp, Boat, Picnic, Hike or Bike...

Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.

<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

Take advantage of our low off-season rates through May 17th

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We include the gas in all our rentals. Which will save you \$\$!

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)

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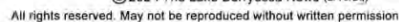
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

To BLM Knoxville OHV & Recreation Area 34 Miles to Lower Lake



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Lake Berryessa News Memorial Day Weekend

Sunday, May 25, 2025



Lake Berryessa Statistics (5/25/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 438.8 feet, 1.2 feet below Glory Hole.

Days above Glory Hole (5/2/25) = 87.

Rainfall total is 22.97 inches at Monticello Dam.
The new rain season begins on July 1, 2025.

Lake capacity is at 1,529,270 A-F or 98.6%.

Lake surface temperature is 73-75 degrees.



Steele Canyon Campground - Memorial Day Weekend

The first big weekend of the summer was perfect at Lake Berryessa. The lake is full at 438.8 feet - 1.2 feet below Glory Hole. It's long and wide with room for everyone. The weather is great. Water temperature is 73-75 degrees.

Steele Canyon operations went smoothly. They check your boat tag on the way in and re-tag your boat when you pull out. Tagging is available until around 8 PM. Word is that the other resorts are doing fine too.

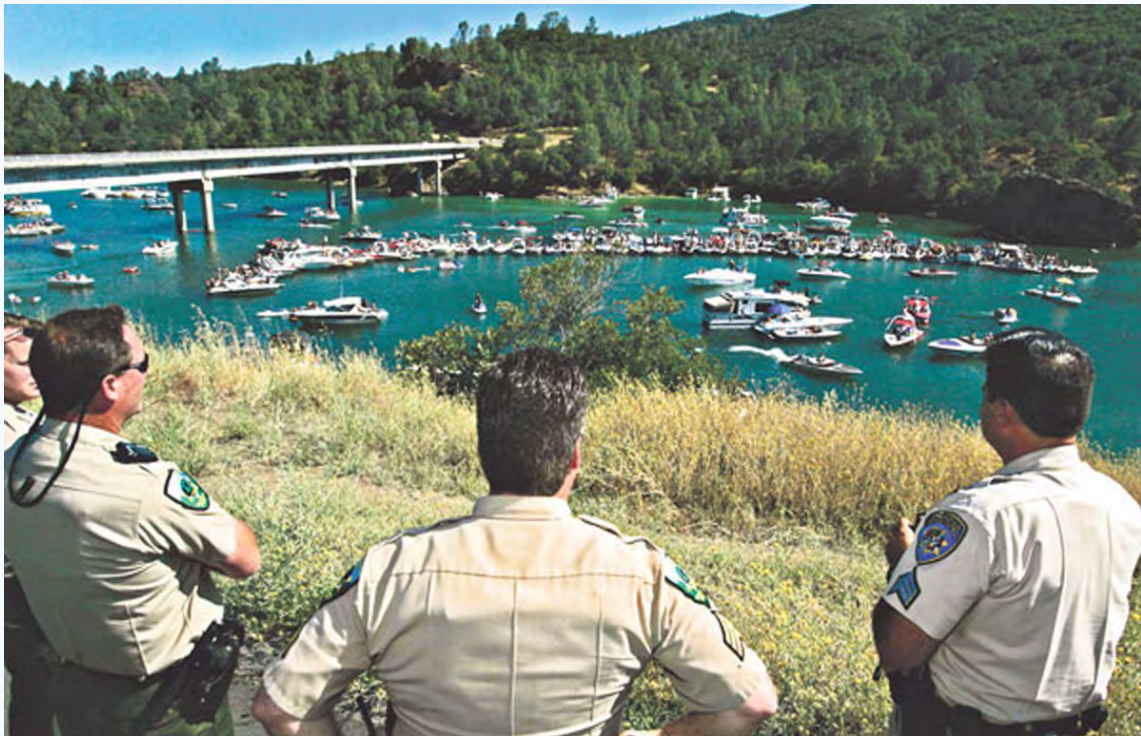
A strange situation was that Steele Canyon turned away four boats Saturday that didn't have quarantine tags or proof of decontamination. After all the news and social media warnings for months how could this happen!

The folks who really love Lake Berryessa are easily coping with the golden mussel boat control requirements. Dave Mosholder and his happy crew below have been coming to Lake Berryessa regularly for decades. I told him about my YouTube video of the Pope Creek party bridge from 2001. He claimed he might have been there. Watch it yourself and see if any of you were there too. (We're all grown up now!)

[Lake Berryessa: A Day at the Party Bridge, 2001](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AB61YS3lyk>

The Sheriffs in the photo below were also enjoying the view!

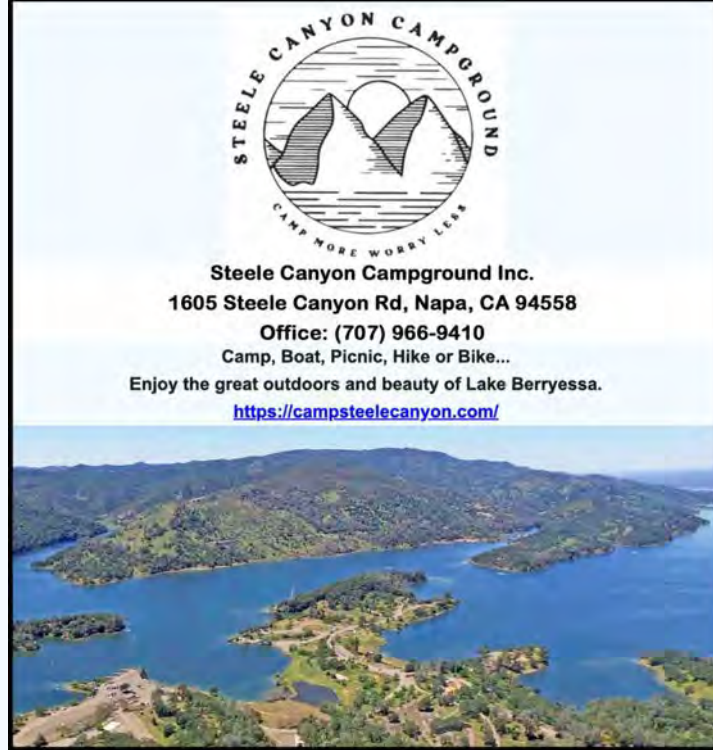


The photos below are from Saturday, 5/24/25, around 2 pm.

**Steele Canyon Campground
Memorial Day Weekend
5/24/25**







Memorial Day Memories (May 26, 2025)

Fewer than 1% of Americans serve in the military. Most of us will never know the cost of war firsthand — not the weight of gear, the sting of absence or the burdens that linger long after a tour ends.

My uncle, Al Kilkus, was a marine who landed on Iwo Jima in WWII and fought for 11 days before he was wounded. The stories he told were almost unbelievable to me as a kid. Several neighbors fought across France and Germany in WWII. Again, their stories were also incredible when they got together at my house - even though they didn't talk about it too much in public.

I watch the amazing "Saving Private Ryan" movie and the "Band of Brothers" TV series every few years to help understand what they went through. As a young child in Chicago, I remember the signs on the neighborhood corner light poles with the names of local men from that block who had died in the war. I also remember all of us wearing poppies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

My uncle, John Kilkus, served (but did not see combat) in the Korean War, - which most people hardly remember, except for the TV show "MASH". I helped my mother bake cookies to send to him.

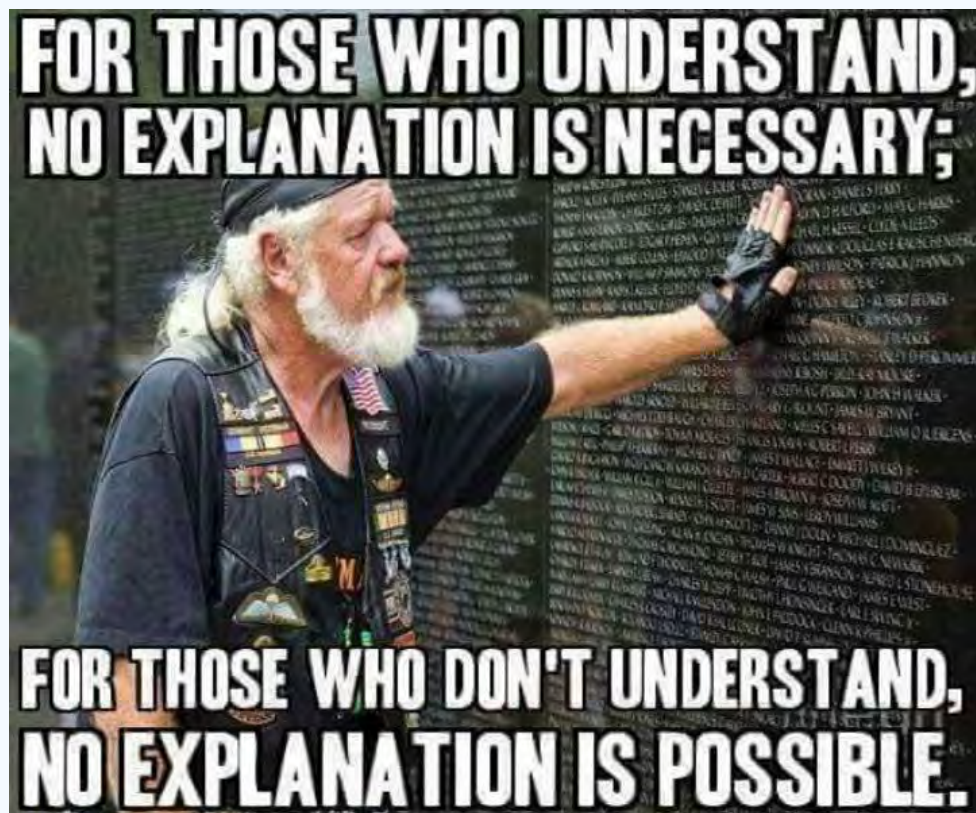
My father, Frank Kilkus, was in the Army Air Force as a mechanic and almost shipped out to the war in the Pacific. By a matter of sheer luck, he was reassigned to a California base just before boarding the troop transport in 1943. I assume he came to visit my mother in Chicago on leave since I was born on July 25, 1944. Many of us have a few childhood memories from way back. One of my first was holding my mother's hand in Chicago's Union Station watching my father, who had finally been discharged after the war ended, get off the train in his uniform carrying a large green duffel bag.

Many of my college classmates went to Vietnam. My draft status was II-A because I was a physicist working at the Berkeley Radiation Laboratory, now the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. My best friend and college roommate was an Army lieutenant, Mike Mecaskey, who fought in the jungles of Vietnam and received the silver star for rescuing a wounded platoon member from the middle of small stream with bullets flying around him. He said the jungle looked like it was filled with fireflies from the Viet Cong rifles. His other stories about setting up night ambushes and being bombarded by Viet Cong mortars were terrifying. He remembered that the mortar round explosions were multi-colored.

My age cohort was too old to fight in Iraq or Afghanistan, but those men and women who did have stories that are equally heroic.

I've been to Washington, DC, several times. Evan was a student at American University in DC when the 911 plane hit the Pentagon. My son Chris lived only a few blocks from the World Trade Center when the twin towers went down. He went there often to use the post office inside one of the towers. I watched the towers go down live on TV, considering what would have happened had they fallen sideways instead of straight down.

I've visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. three times. The first was the most emotional, walking downhill and back uphill next to that simple black wall covered in the names of the fallen, seeing relatives touching the carved names of their loved ones who had died - tears were inevitable...as they were the next two times I was there. Realizing again that the only reason any of us are still alive is a matter of sheer luck - and the sacrifice of others. We should be deeply thankful for that.



Understanding the Difference Between Memorial Day vs. Veterans Day

<https://www.uso.org/stories/2522-understanding-the-difference-of-memorial-day-vs-veterans-day>

Flag Day. Armed Forces Day. Independence Day. As Americans, we celebrate many patriotic holidays throughout the year. However, two of these days — Memorial Day and Veterans Day — are often confused for the other and can be easily misunderstood. Understanding the nuances of Memorial Day vs. Veterans Day might seem confusing at first — they do both honor the military community — but these two federal holidays couldn't be more different.

Memorial Day: Honoring Those Who Died in Military Service

Memorial Day, which is celebrated on the last Monday in May, honors service members who have died in military service to the nation. The holiday has roots dating back to the post-Civil War era, when citizens would informally place spring flower memorials on the graves of fallen soldiers.

Memorial Day is often associated with the start of summer, discount sales and cookouts with friends. It is important to remember the true reason behind the holiday weekend — Memorial Day is a time to reflect on the lives of the men and women of this country who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedoms.

Veterans Day: Honoring All Those Who Served in the Military

Veterans Day, a federal holiday that falls on November 11, is designated as a day to honor the more than 19 million men and women who have served in the U.S. military. It was first observed on November 11, 1919, as Armistice Day in honor of the first anniversary of the end of World War I, which officially ended on the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” in 1918.

In 1926, Congress called for an annual observance of the anniversary and by 1938 it was an official federal holiday. A few decades later, in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, as it is currently known today.

While it is important to thank all those who have served or are serving on a regular basis, on Veterans Day it's especially important to take an extra moment to honor all military members for their sacrifice.



As of 2017, an estimated 624,000 American veterans were dying every year, most from natural causes. A study from the National Institutes of Health estimates that half of the men who die every day are veterans.

War of 1812

Some 15,000 Americans died as a result of the War of 1812. But only around 2,260 deaths were due to the fighting. The rest were from disease.

Mexican-American War

The 1846 war, which expanded the United States to include Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and parts of Colorado, pitted just over 78,700 U.S. troops against 82,000 Mexicans. Historians and the VA agree that 1,733 U.S. troops were killed in the war, a whopping 2.2% death rate. This number would be staggering if you had no idea that diseases and other non-combat mishaps killed 11,550 more, a stunning 14.67%. Before the Civil War, diseases were more effective at killing American troops than the enemy was. The total death rate in Mexico was 16.9%, which would have been memorable if not for what came in the next war.

Civil War

A rough estimate from the American Battlefield Trust puts the number of Americans killed in the Civil War at around 650,000. The VA estimates around 2.2 million Union combatants. When combined with the Confederate combatants, the number of Americans who fought the war reaches 3.26 million. With these numbers, the overall likelihood of fighting and dying in combat was 6.6%, around the same likelihood of fighting and dying in the Union Army. The chances of dying in combat in the Confederate Army was around 7%. In all, including non-combat deaths like disease, the chances of dying as a soldier or sailor in the Civil War was 18.9% -- still the largest death rate in U.S. military history.

Spanish-American War

The total number of American service members who fought in the Spanish-American War hovered around 306,700, with only 385 dying in combat. Only 0.12% of those who fought in the war were killed by the Spanish. Disease did a number on American troops in this war as well. More than 2,000 fell to disease and other non-combat issues.

World War 1

If the Spanish-American War showcased the U.S. military operating at high efficiency, then World War I was the beginning of the end of that. With 4.73 million men in uniform, World War I saw Americans mobilize like never before. Around 2.5% of those Doughboys would not make it home, as 53,402 fell to the enemy and another 63,114 to other causes. So, a Great War-era soldier was almost as likely to perish due to trench foot or Spanish Flu as to a German bullet.

World War II

This war, which saw more than 16 million Americans don a uniform and completely reshaped American society, actually had a lower proportional combat death toll than the Civil War. Only 1.8% of the 16,112,556 Americans who served in combat died at the hands of the enemy, a combat death likelihood roughly on par with World War I. According to the National World War II Museum, for every 1,000 Americans who served in the war, 8.6 were killed in action, three died from other causes, and 17.7 received non-fatal combat wounds. The VA estimates there are still 389,000 living World War II veterans.

Korean War

Around 2% of the 1.79 million who served in Korea would never come home. The Defense Department states that 36,574 Americans died fighting in the Korean War theater and a total of 54,246 died as a result of the war (the total has been reduced slightly over time). As of November 2019, there were 33,739 reported combat deaths in theater, 2,835 non-

combat deaths in theater and another 17,672 non-combat deaths outside the Korean War. If the Korean War had lasted as long as the Vietnam War, the death toll would have climbed to 168,630 -- more than World War I.

The VA estimates there are 1,165,000 living Korean War veterans.

Vietnam

The number of Americans fighting in Vietnam nearly doubled, up to 3.4 million, from the number in Korea. But the number of troops killed in the war grew by only 62% -- and that was over the span of 14 years, starting from when President John F. Kennedy ramped up U.S. involvement in 1961, compared to the three years of fighting in Korea. More than 58,220 American troops died during the course of the Vietnam War, for a death rate of about 1.7%. Despite the prolonged fighting, improvements in battlefield medicine and the mobility of helicopters helped save many lives.

Gulf War

The Gulf War of 1990-1991 saw a force of 694,550 American troops in service or deployed in support of the war. Of those, only 383 were killed, for a death rate of 0.1%, according to the VA in November 2019. There are many reasons for the swift, lopsided victory and the relatively low human cost (for the winners, that is). Vast improvements in battlefield medicine, search-and-rescue operations, interoperability between branches of service and allied nations, and the Caspar Weinberger-Colin Powell doctrines of overwhelming, decisive force with the intent to win all contributed to the coalition's success in the Gulf War.

Iraq and Afghanistan

The success of American battlefield medicine and operational risk management continues through the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to the most- current analysis of casualties from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, updated May 2020, 2.5 million American troops deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Of those, 5,364 died in action, and another 1,476 died in non-hostile incidents. This gives the latest, ongoing wars a death rate of 0.27%, according to the VA's numbers. A more liberal estimate from iCasualties.org, sets the number slightly higher, at 8,498 combined deaths, for a rate of 0.33%. While 0.33% is still relatively small, it doesn't make the number any easier.

Discover your Private Lakeview Retreat on 10+ Acres

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<https://1081steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$895,000



Escape to your very own private oasis where comfort & breathtaking lake views await. This custom 2 story home offers an unparalleled living experience within the exclusive, gated community of Oakridge Estates. The expansive 10-acre property features a natural spring and well-appointed outdoor entertainment area, creating the ideal backdrop for hosting gatherings or simply soaking in the stunning surroundings. Gourmet kitchen, complete with a Viking stove and a center island. Living room with a woodstove adds warmth and ambiance, family room offers versatility with its own woodstove, bar area, and direct access to a backyard perfect for entertaining or unwinding. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes away. Nature lovers will delight in the easy access to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.



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www.amberpayne.net

The Napa County Sheriff's Office received a report of a drowning just before 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 18, 2025. A 17-year-old Fairfield male drowned Sunday at the Smittle Creek day-use area on Lake Berryessa, according to the Napa County Sheriff's Office. The death of the teen, whose name authorities declined to release because he was a minor, marks the year's first drowning at the lake.

Emergency personnel responded to the lake around 4:25 p.m. after witnesses saw a teen boy slip beneath the water and fail to resurface, said Henry Wofford, spokesperson for the sheriff's office. The teen was visiting the lake with two friends. Witnesses saw him standing in waist-deep water before he accidentally stepped off a steep underwater ledge, Wofford said.

First responders searched with an underwater camera and recovered his body at 4:54 p.m. near the shoreline in nine feet of water. He was pronounced dead at the scene. **Wofford said the boy did not know how to swim and was not wearing a life jacket.**

"This lake can be a lot of fun, but it's also a dangerous lake if you're not wearing a life jacket," Wofford said. "The drop-offs can be all at once, and they can be very steep." Wofford urged all visitors, even those who are confident swimmers, to wear life jackets while enjoying Lake Berryessa. The flotation devices are available free to use at the various lake locations.





Celebrate **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY** at Lake Solano

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Trash Cleanup at Lake Berryessa & Lake Solano
- Naturalist Kayak Tour of Lake Solano
- Grass & Wildflower Plantings
- Wildflower Seed 'Bar'
- Bilgee "Meet & Greet"



Join us for more,
visit cleanupsolano.org for dates!

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY: Annual September Event
EARTH DAY CLEANUP: Annual April Event

Date: Saturday, June 7th
Registration: 9:00am at Lake Solano

FREE deli sandwiches following the cleanup!

Please register at Cleanupsolano.org

*Pre-register by June 1st and get a FREE World Environment Day T-shirt!

Please wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots and bring work gloves, a hat, and sunscreen.
Contact Robyn.Slater@solanorc.org or 707.678.1655 ext. 104



A 1972 United Nations initiative to create positive action for the planet, World Environment Day builds global awareness of the environment, encourages political attention and supports individual and community projects.



Embrace a Lifestyle of Relaxation and Beauty

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\$579,000

<https://www.1104steelecanyonrd.com/>

<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrsbkFprhy4TiuE>



Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244

707-235-1124

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1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,295,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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238 Manzanita Ln, Napa, CA

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/238-manzanita-lane-napa-ca-94558/93990505/regionId/100>

4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,836 Sq Ft

\$665,000

Enjoy peace, tranquility, and STUNNING views from your expansive covered deck in this beautifully remodeled home. The open-concept living space features vaulted ceilings, a wall of windows, recessed lighting, and a chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances and quartz counters. Upstairs offers two bedrooms, updated bathrooms, and breathtaking lake views. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to own a piece of lakeview paradise. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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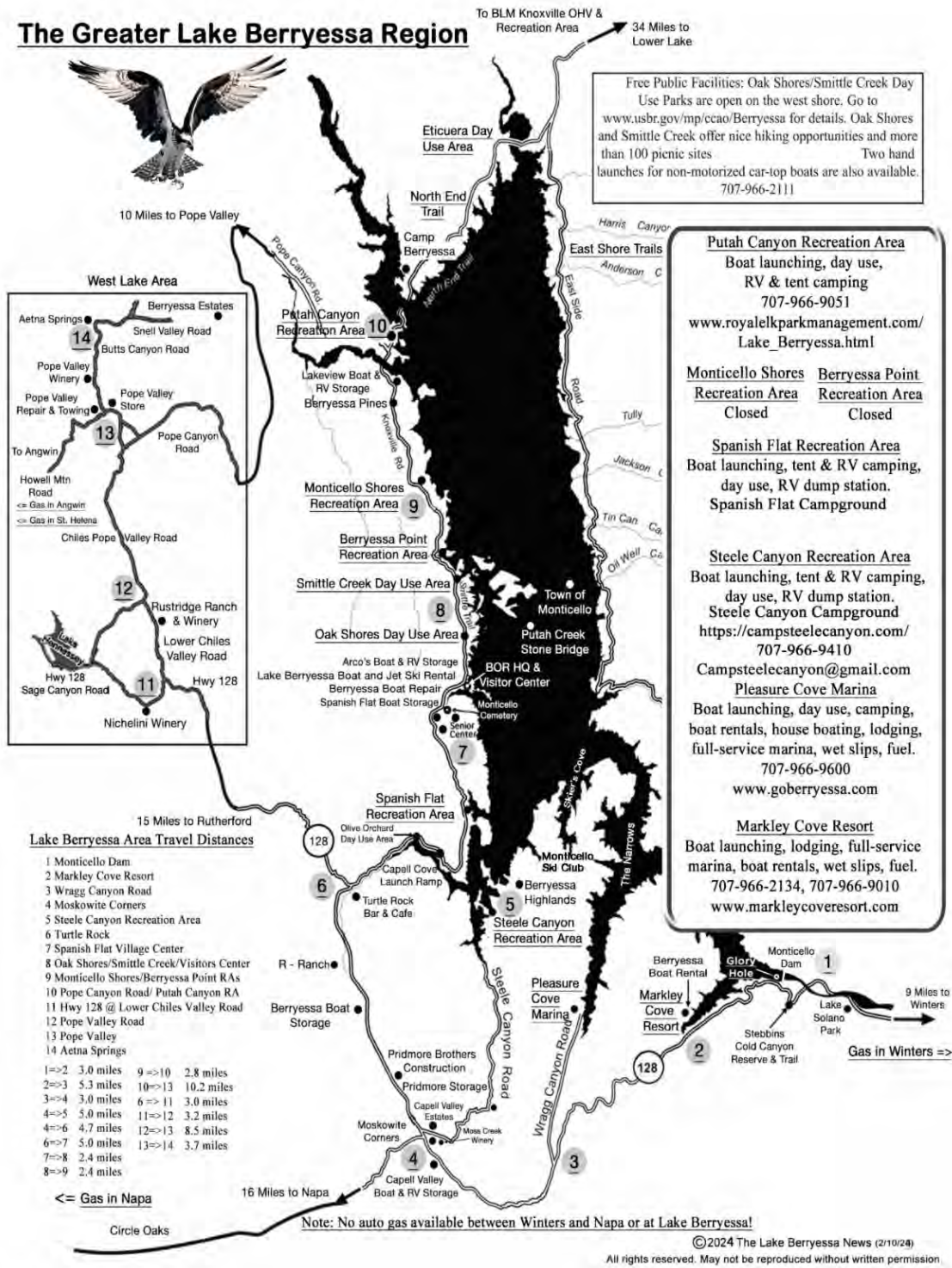
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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