The fishing is terrific at Lake Shawn

For 45 years, Lake Shawn in Belmont County has offered a unique and exceptional experience for anglers of all ages and experience levels.

Hidden from the road by a wall of large pines, the only way to reach Lake Shawn is to cross a private bridge that spans the scenic Captina Creek.

"It's so private it's almost like having your own private lake," says Bob Togliatti.

Lake Shawn in Belmont County has two lakes abundantly stocked with various fish.

In 2006, Togliatti, his brothers Anthony and Ted, and his uncle, Bob, took ownership of the 108-acre property. It previously had been owned by other family members. Togliatti lives at the private sport fishing lake, which is served by South Central Power.

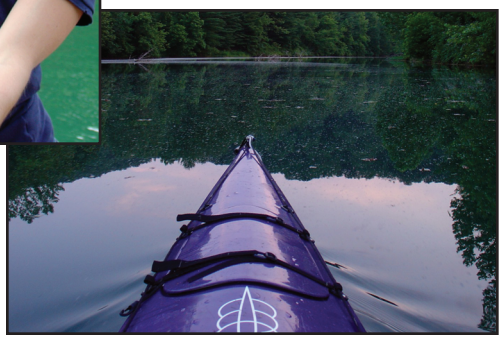
The lakes. The property, a former strip mining site, includes 30 acres of crystal clear spring-fed water.

"We have two separate lakes, the upper and the lower lake. Some areas are 40 feet deep, which is an ideal habitat for fish," Togliatti says.

Lake Shawn limits the number of fishermen on the lakes at any given time.

"We don't want people bumping into each other." Togliatti says. "Up to three parties of four people can be out on the lower lake, which is the largest. The upper lake can accommodate one party of four."

It's not uncommon to reel in a large hybrid striped bass at Lake Shawn.



The fishing is quiet and peaceful.

Each party may use one of the four 15-foot Jon boats with a trolling motor. Two docks are available, as is a campfire site. Fishermen also may rent the cabin. "In 2007, we plan to build another cabin and a pavilion," Togliatti says.

Lake Shawn's fishing season is April through October.

The fish. All of the fish are raised at Lake Shawn. Four small rearing ponds are used to raise finger-length fish to adulthood. When large enough, they're netted and transferred to the larger lakes.

"They must be 10 inches long before they go into the ponds," Togliatti says. "It's a two-year process to raise fish big enough so that the other fish won't eat them."

The lakes are stocked with numerous sport fish. "Our fish include large- and small-mouth bass, bluegill, catfish, perch, crappie, trout and large hybrid stripers," Togliatti says.

Lake Shawn has a strict catch-and-release policy.

Fun for all. Fishermen are attracted to Lake Shawn because of the countless trophy fish that have been caught.

"It's not uncommon to reel in a 10-pound bass or a two-pound bluegill," says Togliatti. "People don't think about catfish, but a couple of our visitors have told us that they've brought in catfish that weighed over 20 pounds."

Businesses, sportsmen and families are among those who reserve time at Lake Shawn.

"Kids love to come, because normally they can catch fish here. It's exciting for anyone to catch a fish, but especially for kids," Togliatti says.

Hunting. When fishing season ends, deer and turkey hunters visit the property. "In 2007, we want to raise pheasants and quail and add them," Togliatti says.

For information or to reserve a date, contact Lake Shawn at 1-800-856-6098 or visit www.lakeshawn.com. Owned and managed as a private sport fishing lake, an Ohio fishing license is not required.