

lakes are generally worse than larger lakes or the great lakes.

The reason is mainly because the trees close to shore block a lot of the breeze. If it is any consolation, it is easier to paddle home on a small lake than a large one.

If you want to learn how to sail, or to see whether if you try it you like it, probably the best place to start is the American Youth Hostel at Kensington Lake.

They will provide a boat and lessons, and you then can rent one of their boats at either Kensington or Lake St. Clair.

Rental boats are also available from private dealers at some area lakes, but most are concentrated on Lake St. Clair, near Mt. Clemens.

Looking at boats at one of the boat shows (some of the biggest in the country are held in the Detroit area) the variety of craft powered by sail is bewildering.

There are catamarans, with two hulls, probably the fastest sailboats: "board boats," sort of like a surfboard with a sail, "daysailers," and "cruisers," good for overnight trips.

A good start is anything with shallow draft, a trailer and under 19 feet.

It doesn't matter too much what size you buy.

Once you start, you will want something bigger. It's inevitable, like getting tired of the local ponds and trying Lake Huron. Then an ocean voyage.

Fair warning. Once you're hooked on sailing, it's for life.

against motorboats, and in a light breeze you will find yourself slapping around in the wakes of low-horsepower speedboats.

On Kensington there is a speed limit, on Orchard Lake only boats with less than five horsepower, so the tricky winds circling around the islands in these lakes may be worth it.

Speaking of wind, small inland

noise and smell if you owned a motorboat.

Public launching is available at all three lakes mentioned above, but Orchard Lake, with access at Orchard Lake Rd. and Long Lake Rd., is quite small and generally fills up early in the morning.

Cass Lake is the biggest lake, and has the steadiest winds.

But there are no restrictions



# OASIS

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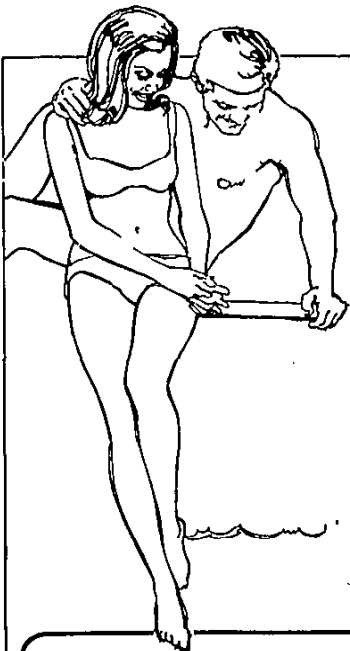
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