

# LAKE BURTON TROUT FISHERY

*To fish for trout on Lake Burton requires a fishing license. A trout stamp is also needed if you plan to keep any trout that you catch.*

*For more information about fishing in Georgia, visit our website at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com)*

## EXPERT TIPS FOR FISHING LAKE BURTON IN SPRING, SUMMER, FALL AND WINTER

Lake Burton is a 2,785-acre reservoir located between Clayton and Hiawassee that supports Georgia's only reservoir trout fishery.

There are three factors in Lake Burton that few southern impoundments possess, which enable it to support trout:

- (1) a bountiful supply of cool water,
- (2) sufficient dissolved oxygen, and
- (3) suitable forage.

The surrounding mountain streams flowing into the lake provide a continuous supply of cool, well-oxygenated water, and blueback herring provide the forage needed for trout to grow fast and big. Couple these things with an annual stocking program by GA-DNR and you have all the ingredients for a great reservoir trout fishery.

### Spring Fishing Tips . . . . .

Spring is a major transition period for trout in Lake Burton because water temperatures are warming rapidly, but are still cool enough to allow trout to roam freely throughout the lake.

The key to locating and catching trout during this period is finding their favorite food—**Blueback Herring**. In April and May, blueback herring are spawning on rocky shorelines around the main lake and in the tributary streams. Lures that imitate a blueback herring, like a Pearl Super Fluke or Zara Spook or Shad Rap are effective this time of year. Find spawning herring and hungry trout will likely be near by.



A second approach is to troll crank baits in silver or crayfish patterns near the mouth of the major

tributaries. Moccasin Cove, adjacent to the Trout Hatchery, is the best one.

For bank anglers, the docks adjacent to the Moccasin Creek boat ramp, which is behind the hatchery, offer a chance to catch a trout, too. Small spinners and crankbaits can be effective during the twilight hours.



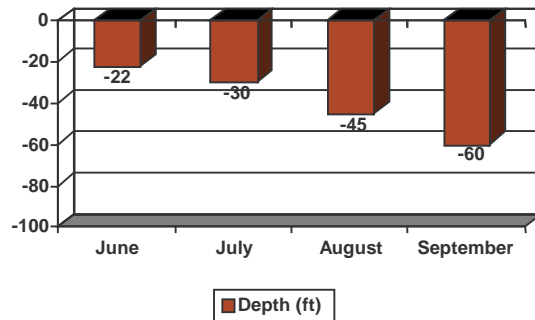
**Lake Burton Record  
11 pound, 2 oz Brown Trout**

## Summer Fishing Tips . . . . .

During the hot summer months, surface temperatures become too warm for trout, so they seek the cooler refuge of deeper waters. The migration to deeper water actually improves your chances of success because fish will become more concentrated in the lower lake.

There are three keys to catching trout during the summer—depth, bait selection, and trolling. Proper depth is the first and most important key ingredient.

**Depth of Burton Lake  
Trout in Summer**



Trout move to increasingly deeper water as summer progresses. The graph above indicates the typical depth range of trout during the summer. For trolling, downriggers are a useful tool in getting baits to the proper depth. For still fishing, slip floats will ensure you are at the proper depth.

Bait selection is the second key. Trolling spoons, such as the Krocodile spoon, Doctor spoon or Sutton spoon, and live bait, preferably blueback herring or medium shiners, are effective during the summer months. For still fishing, live shiners or nightcrawlers are your best choices.



Blue Marlin Krocodile spoon

Finally, cover a lot of water by trolling your baits at the critical depths. There are no submerged trees to snag your lures, so keep moving (2-3 mph), especially on the lower half of the lake.

## Fall Fishing Tips . . . . .

As the leaves change into their fall colors, brown trout will migrate into the coves of Lake Burton.

This is a great time to catch big fish from the shoreline. Small spinners, like Rooster Tails and Mepps Spinners, as well as small Rapalas are effective baits to cast from the shoreline.



Anglers may also enjoy good success fishing with minnows or nightcrawlers on the boat docks adjacent to the boat ramp behind the Trout Hatchery.

Boating anglers should watch for signs of surface feeding fish, especially in Moccasin Cove. Small spoons, like a contrasting blue/silver Little Cleo, and surface plugs are effective lures this time of year.

## Winter Fishing Tips . . . . .

Winter fishing on Lake Burton is not for the cold-natured angler, but a sunny afternoon can provide good trout fishing conditions.

During cold weather, trout will follow blueback herring into pockets of warmer water. These pockets occur along the face of Burton Dam as the afternoon sun radiates heat off the concrete wall.

The mouth of tributary streams also hold trout and bluebacks during the winter. At the dam, fishing with live herring or shiners at depths from 15 to 30 feet works best. In the coves, slowly troll either live bait or Shad Raps.



Floating Slip Rig