



PERCH TALES

A Periodic Newsletter of the
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
George J. Babey, Editor

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Gaining Momentum



You will soon meet **JUSTIN WIGGINS** if you schedule or teach a family fishing class in your area. Justin joined CARE as a Fisheries Technician.

This continues to be a fantastic year for both CARE and the Inland Fisheries Division (IFD). Partnerships established earlier this year continue to produce the desired response: excitement! Twenty-year Instructors were honored this year at a media event at Valley Falls Park, Vernon. This was in partnership with Fisheries Management staff that also named Valley Falls a new Trout Park. See **JEFF CARLSON**'s photos inside.

Then came the hiring of new CARE Technician **JUSTIN WIGGINS** the following month. Justin was born and raised in Bristol, CT. He gained his fisheries experience working for DEP here in CT and through jobs in Yellowstone National Park, and North Carolina. He graduated from the University of Connecticut. You will meet Justin soon if you schedule a class! Take a look inside for the list of classes already scheduled by Chief Instructors. Add one of your own to the list!

Next came a New Instructor Training at the CARE Center scheduled by **TOM**. The new Instructors contact information appears inside. Tom also has the *City Fishing 2007* schedule almost complete before he prepares to go West to fight fires.

We welcomed back 4 members of last year's *City Fishing* team, as **CASSIE CRANDALL, ELIZA JOHNSON, JOHN MASTRIANNI** and **TONY NORTON** join newcomer **SARAH LIBEN**. CARE Chief Instructor **SUE QUINCY** provided them with a training program prior to their first class and now they are off and running!

Photos from **DICK EMMONS**' event with *CT Special Olympics*, provided by Certified Instructor **TAMARA GROSSO**, appear in this issue as well. It's so great to have Justin on board to create and format *Perch Tales* with lots of graphics! It will be available online very soon.

Recent and Upcoming classes, pp. 2-4

20-year Instructor Awards, pp. 5-6

Finally, IFD biologists have built on their earlier success by bringing channel catfish into the State and stocking them into many waters, including our new Urban Fisheries. Look inside for more information on that too! If you can, add a class to our list and provide some of your hometown friends and neighbors with something exciting to do this summer. In the meantime, enjoy some fishing with your families. We all hope to see you soon!

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Recent and Upcoming Classes

<i>Status</i>	<i>Class Dates</i>	<i>Chief Instructor</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Class Times</i>	<i>Instructor #</i>
FULL	JUN 2, 2007	THOMAS MEGARGEE	KILLINGWORTH	9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM	(860) 421-3008
OPEN	JUN 2, 2007	JOHN DELAURENTIS	WATERBURY	8:00 AM TO 11:00 AM	(203) 489-0035
FULL	JUN 8, 2007	MARK DYSART	WINDSOR	7:00 AM TO 4:00 PM	(860) 667-6302
FULL	JUN 8, 11, 2007	TIM IRWIN	EAST HARTFORD	8:00 AM TO 10:00 AM	(860) 528-4401
FULL	JUN 9, 10, 2007	DICK EMMONS	NEW HAVEN	10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM	(203) 357-7505
OPEN	JUN 9 2007	TIM IRWIN	COLEBROOK	10:00AM TO 2:00PM	(860) 528-4401
OPEN	JUN 9, 2007	JOE HAINES	TRUMBULL	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(203) 268-3873
FULL	JUN 14, 15, 2007	SUE QUINCY	FAIRFIELD	9:00 AM TO 3:30 PM	(860) 736-6067
FULL	JUN 25 TO JUN 29, 2007	JOHN RYAN	BRISTOL	10:00AM TO 3:00PM	(860) 582-1020
FULL	JUN 28, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	KILLINGWORTH	10:15AM TO 1:00PM	
FULL	JUN 29, 2007	CASSIE CRANDALL	WEST HAVEN	10:00AM TO 12:30PM	
FULL	JUN 29, 2007	JEFF CARLSON	VERNON	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	(860) 875-7549
FULL	JUL 2, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	KILLINGWORTH	9:30AM TO 11:30PM	
FULL	JUL 2 TO JUL 6, 2007	JOHN RYAN	BRISTOL	10:00AM TO 3:00PM	(860) 582-1020
FULL	JUL 2, 2007	TONY NORTON	KILLINGWORTH	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	(860) 940-8289
FULL	JUL 3, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	STAMFORD	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 3, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	STAMFORD	9:30AM TO 11:30AM	
FULL	JUL 5, 2007	CASSIE CRANDALL	NEW BRITAIN	9:30AM TO 11:30AM	
FULL	JUL 5, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	NEW BRITAIN	12:00PM TO 2:00PM	
FULL	JUL 6, 2007	TONY NORTON	BRISTOL	9:30AM TO 11:30AM	(860) 940-8289
FULL	JUL 6, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	BRISTOL	1:00PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 9 TO JUL 15 2007	MARTY ARMSTRONG	BRIDGEPORT	10:00AM TO 2:00PM	(203) 334-2508
FULL	JUL 9 TO JUL 13, 2007	GRACE JACOBSON	POMFRET	11:00AM TO 1:00PM	(860) 974-2773
FULL	JUL 9 TO JUL 13, 2007	JOHN RYAN	BRISTOL	10:00AM TO 3:00PM	(860) 582-1020
FULL	JUL 9, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	HAMDEN	10:00AM TO 12:00PM	
FULL	JUL 9, 2007	CASSIE CRANDALL	HAMDEN	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 10, 2007	TONY NORTON	NEW BRITAIN	12:00PM TO 2:00PM	(860) 940-8289
FULL	JUL 10, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	NEW BRITAIN	9:30AM TO 11:30AM	

<i>Status</i>	<i>Class Dates</i>	<i>Chief Instructor</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Class Times</i>	<i>Instructor #</i>
FULL	JULY 10, 2007	SUE QUINCY	UNION	10:00AM TO 2:00PM	(860) 736-6067
FULL	JUL 11, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	MERIDEN	10:00AM TO 12:00PM	
FULL	JUL 11, 2007	CASSIE CRANDALL	MERIDEN	1:00AM TO 3:00PM	
FULL	JUL 12, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	NEW BRITAIN	9:30AM TO 11:30AM	
FULL	JUL 12 TO JUL 13, 2007	SUE QUINCY	DERBY	9:30AM TO 12:00PM	(860) 736-6067
FULL	JUL 12, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	NEW BRITAIN	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 13, 2007	JEFF CARLSON	VERNON	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	(860) 875-7549
FULL	JUL 16, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	HAMDEN	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 16, 2007	TONY NORTON	HAMDEN	10:00AM TO 12:00PM	(860) 940-8289
FULL	JUL 17, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	TORRINGTON	12:30PM TO 2:45PM	
FULL	JUL 17, 2007	CASSIE CRANDALL	TORRINGTON	10:00AM TO 12:00PM	
FULL	JUL 18, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	NEW LONDON	9:30AM TO 11:30PM	
FULL	JUL 20, 2007	TONY NORTON	BRISTOL	1:00PM TO 2:30PM	(860) 940-8289
FULL	JUL 20, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	BRISTOL	9:30AM TO 11:30PM	
FULL	JUL 23, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	WEST HAVEN	10:00AM TO 12:00PM	
FULL	JUL 23, 2007	CASSIE CRANDALL	WEST HAVEN	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 23 TO JUL 27, 2007	DAVID CASKO	NEW LONDON	9:00AM TO 3:00PM	(860) 739-8438
FULL	JUL 24, 2007	FRED FRILLICI	EASTON	1:00PM TO 3:30PM	(203) 371-4237
FULL	JUL 25, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	MIDDLETOWN	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 25, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	MIDDLETOWN	9:30AM TO 11:45AM	
FULL	JUL 26, 2007	TONY NORTON	NEW BRITAIN	9:30PM TO 11:30PM	(860) 940-8289
FULL	JUL 26, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	NEW BRITAIN	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 27, 2007	JEFF CARLSON	VERNON	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	(860) 875-7549
FULL	JUL 27, 2007	CASSIE CRANDALL	NEW LONDON	9:45AM TO 12:30PM	
FULL	JUL 30, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	HAMDEN	10:00AM TO 12:00PM	
FULL	JUL 30 TO AUG 3, 2007	GRACE JACOBSON	POMFRET	11:00AM TO 1:00PM	(860) 974-2773
FULL	JUL 30 TO AUG 3, 2007	DAVID CASKO	NEW LONDON	10:00AM TO 3:00PM	(860) 739-8438
FULL	JUL 30, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	HAMDEN	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 31, 2007	TONY NORTON	NORWALK	10:00AM TO 12:00PM	(860) 940-8289
FULL	JUL 31, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	NORWALK	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	JUL 31, 2007	FRED FRILLICI	EASTON	1:00PM TO 3:30PM	(203) 371-4237

<i>Status</i>	<i>Class Dates</i>	<i>Chief Instructor</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Class Times</i>	<i>Instructor #</i>
FULL	AUG 1, 2007	CASSANDRA CRANDALL	STAMFORD	9:30AM TO 11:30PM	
FULL	AUG 1, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	STAMFORD	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
FULL	AUG 7, 2007	FRED FRILLICI	EASTON	1:00PM TO 3:30PM	(203) 371-4237
FULL	AUG 10, 2007	JEFF CARLSON	VERNON	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	(860) 875-7549

*All classes with no **Instructor #** are *City Fishing* classes. For additional info contact **JUSTIN** at the CARE Center (860) 663-1656.



*Congratulations and thank you to the recently-honored
20 YEAR INSTRUCTORS!*

**JEFF CARLSON
RICH TAPP
LIONEL MACDONALD
JOHN DELAURENTIS
JOE WOZNAK
RUDY CASSETTI**

**DAVE MAJORS
RAY GORSKY
WARREN SPEH
FRED FRILLICI
BOB SMITH**

Also part of this team and in our memories

BILL ATKINSON

BILL BABSON

Valley Falls Park Media Day Photos



The day celebrated 11 CARE Instructors with 20 years of volunteer service to the State. **RAY GORSKY** and others received a signed letter of congratulations from Governor **M. JODI RELL**.



Students were eager to stock trout into Valley Falls Pond. The Pond was designated as a Trout Park with special regulations in the DEP Anglers Guide for 2007. The fish were raised in the Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery in Plainfield.

The trout were gently tossed a few feet out into the pond.



Students didn't mind getting wet!

Catfish to be Stocked in Connecticut

DEP Aims to Create Year-Round Fisheries in Urban Ponds

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced today that channel catfish will be stocked into ten lakes and ponds located throughout the State. The stocking is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 5th, and marks the first time that the DEP has released catfish into state waters. "Catfish are very popular with anglers throughout the United States and we're looking for them to provide some good summertime fishing here in Connecticut, particularly in our urban fishing waters," said DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy. The effort to create and enhance fisheries in urban waters is part of the DEP's "No Child Left Inside" initiative. The Urban Fishing program began last year with the stocking of rainbow trout into Bunnells Pond in Bridgeport and was expanded this year with the addition of Keney Pond (Hartford), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden) and Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich). "We stock rainbow trout to provide good springtime fishing and now we're adding catfish to provide a year-round fishery. These areas will now provide an even better opportunity for children and families to get outside and enjoy fishing," said Commissioner McCarthy.

The Urban Ponds will be stocked with large catfish weighing over two pounds each and measuring 14 – 18 inches in length. Six other lakes will be stocked with smaller 9-12 inch catfish that are expected to survive for many years and grow to much larger size. "Channel catfish are excellent food fish that have the potential to grow to true trophy-size proportions," said Edward Parker, Chief of the Bureau of Natural Resources. The current Connecticut state record channel catfish weighed 29 lbs 6 oz and was caught in 2004 from Mashapaug Lake in Union while the world record is a 58 lb catfish taken in South Carolina.

"The State's only significant population of channel catfish is found in the Connecticut River where they support a very popular fishery," said Parker. DEP data shows that anglers fishing the river south of Hartford harvest approximately 40,000 catfish each year. "This new DEP program will establish channel catfish in lakes where we know there is sufficient forage to support a population of large gamefish," explained Parker. The DEP believes that the combination of a popular gamefish stocked into waters that are selected based on scientific data is a winning combination. "We've had great success in using this approach to develop exciting fisheries for northern pike and walleye and now we're looking forward to similar results with catfish," said Parker.

Nationally, catfish are the fourth most sought after type of fish according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. Catfish are also a favorite food fish and account for approximately 50% of the total value of aquaculture production in the United States.

Lakes and Ponds scheduled to be stocked with channel catfish

Urban Fishing Waters (14-18" catfish)

Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport)
Keney Park Pond (Hartford)
Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich)
Lake Wintergreen (Hamden)

Other Lakes & Ponds (9-12" catfish)

Black Pond (Meriden, Middlefield)
Lower Bolton Lake (Bolton)
Maltby Lakes #2 and #3 (Orange, West Haven)
Pattaconk Lake (Chester)
Quonnipaug Lake (Guilford)
Silver Lake (Berlin, Meriden)

GREETINGS, CARE INSTRUCTORS!

Hello all,

This is Justin Wiggins, the newest member of the CARE Team. I would like everyone to know how excited I am to be a part of this organization. After several years of being groomed by the Connecticut D.E.P. Inland Fisheries staff I have found a permanent home with the CARE program. As George mentioned, I have put time in the fisheries science field in Connecticut, Yellowstone, and North Carolina. Below are some photos of me in my travels I wanted to share. I have been back in CT with the CARE program for 2 months now and could not be happier. I look forward to meeting you all! And please, if there is anything I can do for anyone feel free to contact me at (860) 424-3054 or email me at justin.wiggins@po.state.ct.us



Welcome aboard to our newest team of CARE Instructors

Killingworth, 6/23/07

		Bold Type Indicates (203) Area Code			
David A.	Casko	528	884-3699 cell	739-8438H	East Lyme
Sarah	Liben	529	494-2589 cell	272-4416H	Cheshire
Jim	Murtagh	530		453-6052H	Guilford
Hannah	Petri	531	655-7459W	210-5399H	Wilton
Ben	Silliman	532	508-8111 cell	342-2267H	Portland
Kevin	Walsh	533		690-9453H	Middletown
Samantha	Wentworth	534		552-9526H	Clinton

CT Special Olympics and CARE

DICK EMMONS
congratulates a program
participant on catching a
beautiful backyard bass!



CARE Instructors **TOM NICHOLS**
and **DICK EMMONS** teach proper
casting techniques.

TAMARA GROSSO was able to capture the
smiles a backyard bass brought on the faces of
these successful CARE participants.

