



PERCH TALES

A Periodic Newsletter of the
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Justin Wiggins, Writer George Babey, Editor

Volume 22 Number 6 Autumn 2008

Lessons Learned



Certified Instructor **JOHN ORTOLEVA** helps students get outside and on the water at Bridgeport's Beardsley Park. Chief Instructor **DORIS JOHNSON** organized the course that was featured on the front page of the *Connecticut Post* newspaper!

Over 23 years, a CARE team that has included 2,000 members, has moved mountains. **JUSTIN** and **GEORGE** just returned from national Aquatic Resources Education meetings in Texas. We brought home lots of good ideas to help us improve. While participation in fishing across the country is still diminished from years ago, Instructors **LIKE YOU** have taught millions of citizens across the USA. In fact, 125,000 of them are folks you taught right here in CT. What's even better is that you are teaching parents together with their kids, which is the recipe for success!

I attended an awards ceremony this summer for kids who helped improve the CT River. Led by Certified Instructor **CRAIG MERGINS**, the kids were greeted by Hartford Mayor **EDDIE PEREZ** and a Washington DC dignitary from *National Geographic*. That was great! The very next week, I watched 23-year Instructor, **JEFF CARLSON**, amaze and entertain 4 classes of summer-campers in Vernon with bugs, frogs, fish and stories of

wonder and wit. **DICK EMMONS** accomplished the same thing with *Special Olympics* athletes and families across southern Connecticut and assisted **JOE ARNSON** in fishing events with disabled veterans on the weekends. **RON GRAZIANI** led a team of experts who used fly rods to create wonder at Chatfield Hollow State Park, while **JOE WOZNIAK** did it using good ol' spincasting gear in North Haven. Four great ways to get communities outdoors & to the water!

Before joining CARE, fishing may not have been the first thing that Chief Instructors **JUDY WITZKE**, **GRACE JACOBSON**, **MAUREEN SCINTO**, **SUE QUINCY** & **DORIS JOHNSON** thought to do with summer-camp kids. But then they saw the magic they could work using it to help kids learn about the natural world. So many others helped get folks outside and away from computers this summer and fall. You tell us that it *isn't* always easy, but that it *is* always worth it. We find that it's often hard to tell who has more fun: you or the students! Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your patience and expertise.

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Inservice Training-Dec. 14 pg. 3-4
Fall Salmon Stocking pg. 7-9
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Now it's time to get together for Inservice training. Details appear inside this edition. Also, please check inside for courses scheduled by your peers. **Call them and come out to help where you can. While you're at it, call to register for this year's Inservice Training program. Ice fishing will be the theme and we guarantee a good time! We hope to hear from you soon!** <"}}}}}}><{

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>
OPEN	9/6/2008	DOREEN ABUBAKAR	NEW HAVEN	8:00AM TO 2:00PM	(203) 891-5360
OPEN	SEP 10, 11, 2008	MARTY ARMSTRONG	BRIDGEPORT	9:00AM TO 12:00PM	(203) 334-2508
FULL	SEP 13, 2008	JOSEPH ARNSON	BRANFORD	9:00AM TO 2:00PM	(203) 598-7094
OPEN	SEP 20, 27, OCT 4, 2008	MAUREEN SCINTO	FAIRFIELD	10:00AM TO 12:00PM	(203)255-2834
OPEN	OCT 1, 4, 2008	RAY POTKAY	STRATFORD	6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM	(203) 395-8371
OPEN	OCT 4, 2008	RON GRAZIANI	KILLINGWORTH	8:30 AM TO 3:00 PM	(203) 265-6035
FULL	OCT 4, 2008	DICK EMMONS	WILTON	10:00AM TO 4:00PM	(203) 357-7505
FULL	OCT 10, 2008	FRED FRILLICI	REDDING	3:30PM TO 5:30PM	(203) 371-4237
OPEN	OCT 11, 2008	EDWARD TELLIER	NEW HARTFORD	10:00AM TO 4:00PM	(860) 738-0097
OPEN	OCT 14,16,21, 2008	DICK EMMONS	STAMFORD	6:15PM TO 8:45PM	(203) 357-7505
OPEN	JAN 10, 2009	TONY RECCHIA	GOSHEN	1:00PM TO 3:00PM	(860) 618-0046
OPEN	JAN 13, 2009	RAY GORSKY	TOLLAND	6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM	(860) 871-0023
OPEN	JAN 16, 2009	GRACE JACOBSON	POMFRET	7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM	(860) 974-2773
OPEN	JAN 17, 2009	EDWARD TELLIER	NEW HARTFORD	1:00PM TO 3:00PM	(860) 738-0097
OPEN	JAN 17, 2009	TONY RECCHIA	LITCHFIELD	1:00PM TO 3:00PM	(860) 618-0046
OPEN	JAN 21, 2009	HARRY COYLE	NEW HAVEN	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(203) 946-8028
OPEN	JAN 22, 2009	TOM BOURRET	WALLINGFORD	6:30PM TO 8:30PM	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	JAN 24, 2009	JIM TONER	BOLTON	9:30AM TO 12:00PM	(860) 649-3071
OPEN	JAN 24, 2009	JUDITH WITZKE	FARMINGTON	9:00AM TO 12:00PM	(860) 992-4669
OPEN	JAN 31, 2009	TOM BOURRET	COVENTRY	8:00AM TO 11:00AM	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	FEB 28, 2009	DAN BARVIR	NEW HAVEN	9:00AM TO 3:00PM	(203) 946-6086
OPEN	MAR 25, APR 1, 8, 2009	JUDITH WITZKE	FARMINGTON	6:00PM TO 8:00PM	(860) 992-4669
OPEN	APR 2, 7, 9, 2009	TOM BOURRET	WALLINGFORD	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	APR 8, 13, 15, 2009	RAY POTKAY	STRATFORD	6:00PM TO 8:00PM	(203) 395-8371
OPEN	APR 16, 21, 23, 2009	RAY POTKAY	MILFORD	6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM	(203) 395-8371

Attention Instructors

Any Instructors that have a recent change in phone numbers, mailing address, or email address should contact Dianne Grenier at deardianne@comcast.net or Justin at (860) 663-1656 or justin.wiggins@ct.gov to notify them of changes. This will insure that you are kept in the CARE information loop. Thank you very much.

CARE 2008 Instructor's Inservice Training

Who: Certified CARE Instructors

When: 10 am – 2 pm on Sunday, December 14, 2008

Where: Rear building at DEP Marine Headquarters, 333 Ferry Road, Old Lyme

Why: Provide Instructors with an educational opportunity

What: Special training on **Ice Fishing** and other topics of interest, plus:

Overview of CARE Instructor Policy and Procedure Manual

First look at the new “*Water, Fish, and Fishing*” DVD

Annual CARE program update and plans for 2009

If desired you can bring a dish to share for the **pot luck lunch***

***FYI** There will be no cooking facilities at the site. If you plan on bringing hot food please bring it hot or bring a heating device with you.
Thanks.

How: YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY CALLING MADELINE ORTIZ IN THE INLAND FISHERIES OFFICE at (860) 424-3474.

Please let Madeline know what you plan on bringing for the pot luck lunch when calling to register

This get-together will provide insights on Family Ice Fishing class agenda and new *Lake of Perch* video. A presentation by special guest **Captain Blaine Anderson of CT-Outfitters** will conclude the inservice. Captain Blaine is a Certified CARE Instructor as well as one of the most respected guides/fishermen in the whole state! He will have a PowerPoint presentation to share on ice fishing techniques, safety, equipment, and maybe even some secret locations. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from the best!

Instructors that plan on teaching an ice fishing course this winter, want to learn about ice fishing, or improve their vast knowledge of this fine winter sport are strongly encouraged to attend.

We look forward to hearing from and seeing you soon!

Directions from I-95 Northbound or Southbound

Take **exit 70 (Rt. 156)** in Old Lyme on the east side of the CT River bridge;

Go **South** on **Rt. 156** for ¼ mile and take your second **right onto Ferry Road**;

Go to the end of Ferry Road;

Drive around back of Marine HQ all the way to the **last building in the rear**.



A snapshot of what we can all look forward to this winter!

CT Department of Environmental Protection's

Family Ice Fishing Derby



January 31, 2009

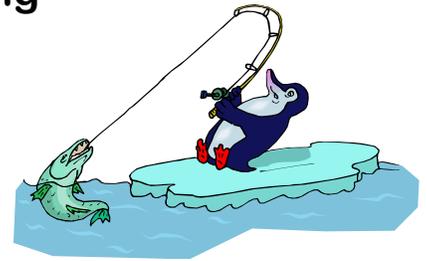
8:00am – 11:00am

Lake Wangumbaug (Coventry Lake)

Patriot's Park Community Center, Lake Street, Coventry

Free Family Fishing Fun

- Free ~ No Charge
- Hands-on introduction to the sport of Ice Fishing
- Certified DEP Fisheries instructors to assist
- Ice Fishing equipment available to borrow
- Bring your own or bait available
- Warm-up lodge with coffee, donuts and hot chocolate
- Children and adults are invited to join the fun
- Prizes for children under 15 years old
- Valid CT Fishing License is required for parents and participants over 16 yrs. old. (Available at Town Clerk's office and most fishing tackle shops)
- Dress for cold weather. Winter coat, hat, gloves, warm socks and waterproof boots. Sneakers are not recommended.
- Bring your skates, sleds, footballs, family and friends for a fun filled morning of ice fishing.



For more information call DEP Fisheries Division: (860) 424-FISH



**Special Olympics
Connecticut**

changing attitudes. changing lives.

www.socct.org

October 27, 2008

Commissioner Gina McCarthy
State of CT Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner McCarthy:

I want to let you know that Conservation Officer John Esteban and Dick Emmons from CARE have been helpful to our organization for years.

John has shown up to our Fishing Tournament for at least eight (8) years and has been a big help to the 100 Special Olympians and volunteers who come.

I also want to let you know that Dick Emmons and the volunteers from CARE warm up our athletes at the Fishing Tournament and come to our Summer Games every year to do a casting clinic.

Officer Ray Ramos came for the first year to the tournament and was a pleasure to be around. I know that both of your Conservation Officers are given the green light to attend by Sgt. Mark Shaw, a fellow alumni of Unity College, and we appreciate his support.

I know you have so many things going on that you would never know this unless I brought them to your attention.

Our athletes and I thank you for your support!

Kindest Regards,

Beau Doherty
President

cc: Conservation Officer John Esteban
Dick Emmons, CARE
Officer Ray Ramos
Sgt. Mark Shaw

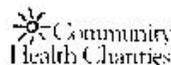
Special Olympics Connecticut, Inc.
2555 North Street, Suite 100
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-233-1100
Fax: 860-233-1100

Eastern Region
401 West 17th Street, Suite 100
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-233-1100
Fax: 860-233-1100

Northwest Region
700 North Main Street, Suite 100
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-233-1100
Fax: 860-233-1100

Southwest Region
100 North Main Street, Suite 100
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-233-1100
Fax: 860-233-1100

CAS/CIAC
100 North Main Street, Suite 100
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-233-1100
Fax: 860-233-1100





STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Further Information Contact:

Dennis Schain, (860) 424-4100

Bill Foreman, (860) 424-3474

October 8, 2008

P R E S S R E L E A S E

DEP BEGINS FALL BROODSTOCK ATLANTIC SALMON STOCKING

Atlantic salmon are renowned for their size, beauty and fighting ability when caught by angling. If hooking-up with one of these exceptional fish sounds like an exciting way to spend a beautiful crisp late fall day, then the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a fantastic opportunity for you! The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced the beginning of its annual stockings of surplus broodstock Atlantic salmon. In the first of several stockings, DEP's Inland Fisheries Division will be releasing a total of 370 salmon into the Shetucket River and the Naugatuck River this week (October 6th-9th). An additional 80 salmon will be released into Crystal Lake (Ellington) and Mashapaug Lake (Union).



Staff of DEP's Kensington Hatchery with some of the larger broodstock Atlantic salmon during spawning in October, 2007. Most of the salmon stocked each year range in weight from 2 to 15 lbs each, but some, like the fish in this photo can weigh from 15 to 25 lbs.

“The broodstock Atlantic salmon stocking program is quite popular,” said DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy. “Catching an Atlantic salmon is very special to many anglers. Until this program was started

in the early 1990's, the thought of fishing for Atlantic salmon in Connecticut was only a dream." The fish being stocked are the progeny of sea-run salmon that returned to the Connecticut River. They were raised in hatcheries to provide eggs for the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program. Having served this purpose, they will provide a unique opportunity for Connecticut anglers.

The 450 fish that are being released this week are surplus and barren fish from the Kensington State Fish Hatchery and weigh between 2 and 15 pounds each with some fish up to 20 pounds. Following spawning, the DEP expects an additional 500 salmon from the Kensington Hatchery will be available for stocking in November. Salmon from the White River National Fish Hatchery in Vermont may also become **available for stocking during late October and November.**

For the second consecutive year, DEP will be stocking several lakes with broodstock Atlantic salmon. DEP began stocking surplus Atlantic salmon in 1992, and until last year (2007), all fish had been stocked only into the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. However, in October 2007, stream flows in the Shetucket River had declined to levels unsuitable for stocking large salmon and the first group of salmon scheduled for the river were instead stocked into Beach Pond (Voluntown) and Crystal Lake. The DEP took advantage of last year's lake stockings by collecting data on the resulting fisheries which indicated that salmon fishing in lakes might be popular. As a result, the DEP decided to stock Mashapaug Lake and Crystal Lake on an experimental basis with salmon from this year's allotment. More extensive data on angler activity and catch rates will be collected throughout the fall and winter. This information will be used to determine future stocking decisions

Anglers should be aware that the regulations for broodstock Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon that they are accustomed to on the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon are the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** As such, specific regulations for salmon fishing in Crystal Lake, Mashapaug Lake and Beach Pond can be found in the *2008 Connecticut Angler's Guide* and are provided at the conclusion of this news release.

Atlantic salmon broodstock are stocked into three designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas: the Shetucket River between Scotland Dam (Scotland) and Occum Dam (Norwich); the "Campville Section" of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston); and the "Beacon Falls Section" of the lower Naugatuck from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls).

Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the Naugatuck River from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for

Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. On the Shetucket River, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor).

In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only** through November 30. From December 1, 2008, through March 31, 2009, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.

The regulations for broodstock Atlantic salmon stocked into lakes and ponds will be posted at each water body. Anglers can also contact the DEP Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-FISH) for more information and stocking updates. All other regulations, including those for broodstock salmon in the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, can also be found in the *2008 Connecticut Angler's Guide*. Guides are available from Town Clerks, many bait & tackle stores, or by contacting the DEP Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-FISH). The Angler's Guide, Weekly Fishing Reports and news releases can all be found on the DEP web site at: www.ct.gov/dep/fishing

Regulations for Atlantic salmon fishing in Crystal Lake, Mashapaug Lake and Beach Pond (not stocked in 2008, but some salmon may remain from 2007) are as follows:

Crystal Lake

- Legal Methods: Angling and Ice Fishing - Fishing with hook and line. May include fishing with bait, flies or lures.
- Open Season: Third Saturday in April through last day in March.
- Minimum Length: Salmon must be greater than or equal to 16 inches to keep.
- Daily creel limit: 1 Atlantic salmon

Mashapaug Lake

- Legal Methods: Angling and Ice Fishing – Fishing with hook and line. May include fishing with bait, flies or lures.
- Open Season: Third Saturday in April through last day in February.
- Minimum Length: None
- Daily creel limit: 1 Atlantic salmon

Beach Pond

- Legal Methods: Angling and Ice Fishing – Fishing with hook and line. May include fishing with bait, flies or lures.
- Open Season: Third Saturday in April through last day in February.
- Minimum Length: None
- Daily creel limit: 1 Atlantic salmon

Eye on the Anti's

Animal Rights Law Passed in Switzerland

Catch and Release Fishing Banned

Switzerland has recently passed a law to clarify acceptable treatment of "social animals."

The law, which goes into effect in September, establishes desirable treatment of animals such as dogs, fish, horses, and even rhinoceroses. An array of animals has been included under the bracket of "social animals" and a part of the new law states that any of these animals will be considered abused if they are not able to cohabit with another of their species.

Under the law dog owners must take a two part course on recognizing the needs of the dog and properly walking a dog. Swiss fishermen will now be required to participate in a course that teaches them how to catch fish humanely. **Catch and release fishing has been banned; instead anglers must now kill the fish immediately after being caught with "a sharp blow to the head with a blunt instrument."**

The law affects farmers as well. They are barred from restraining horses, sheep, and goats. Pigs and cows must not be forced to reside in areas with hard flooring.

Although animal rights groups are jumping for joy over the new law, many Swiss farmers are complaining of the extra costs to run their farms.



Sportsmen Against HSUS Fund Issues Fact Sheet

(Continued from page 3)

The Sportsmen Against HSUS drive will fund campaigns that combat the public policy threats initiated and supported by the HSUS. The HSUS lobbying machine claims to have played a role in getting 86 different state laws passed in 2007 alone.

Members of USSA who wish to receive the fact sheet about HSUS may send a self addressed stamped envelope to Sharon Hayden, Assistant Director of Communications Data, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, 801 Kingsmill Parkway, Columbus, OH, 43229.

Constituent Services-CARE Program
CT DEP-Fisheries Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

