



PERCH TALES

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

Volume 23

Number 1

Happy Holidays 2008-09

New Year's Predictions



Certified Instructor s make CARE ice fishing events a big hit with families across the State. Come help at a class, our Derby or at *Winterfest*. It's amazing to witness what wonder a round hole in the ice can create!

Happy 2009! Ice fishing is great fun for families. It provides therapeutic value in stressful times (get away from those malls!) and much needed exercise (after Christmas cookies!). I was recently surprised by my girlfriend **Pam Harrison's** 2009 prediction: fishing participation will be up next year. Pam based it on the economy and the benefit of high-protein, low-cholesterol food for families on a tight budget. Writer **John Bevalaqua** from *New England Fisherman* also pointed out to me that people may have more time available to fish in this economy. Researcher **Mark Duda** also discovered and reports that a slipping economy always equates to more hunting, for these same reasons. I hope they are all right. More folks fishing is good news.

To help make Pam's prediction a reality, you have done your part, scheduling 12 Family Ice Fishing classes and several springtime classes. Way to go! We were so happy to attract nearly 50 people for our Training last month and to pass along so much ice fishing information. If you attended, you know

the food was outstanding and **Captain Blaine Anderson's** lessons could not have been better.

Now, we'd like to make you aware of some special opportunities to help. Our **Family Ice Fishing Derby** is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 31st at Coventry Lake. More details appear inside. The following Saturday, Feb. 7th, **No Child Left Inside-Winterfest** is scheduled for Black Rock State Park in Thomaston. **WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THESE EVENTS!** We hope that all the families in your ice fishing classes will attend one (or both!) for some "on-ice" experiences. This is great fun! Please call us to let us know you are coming.

Another huge event quickly approaching is **New Instructor Training 2009** on Saturday, Feb 28th. Now is the time call and register. Alert friends that may be interested too. Look inside for details.

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I'd like to make one final prediction: you will gain even more satisfaction by participating in CARE activities in 2009. Thanks to your hard work, we hit milestones of 8,000 students and 5,000 hours volunteered in 2008. This is the best combination of results in 13 years! We hope you are energized with the arrival of **Justin** and the continued innovations from **Tom** and **George**. The brand new *Lake of Perch-Winter* DVDs and brand new tip-ups are ready. Let's go! Call to help the Chief Instructors listed inside this issue. We hope to hear from you soon! Happy 2009! <"}}}}}><{

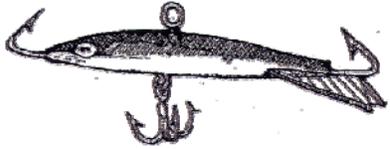
CONNECTICUT AQUATIC RESOURCES EDUCATION

Recent and Upcoming Classes

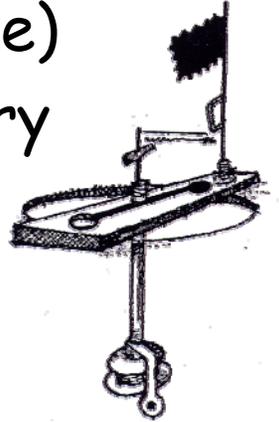
<i>Status</i>	<i>Class Dates</i>	<i>Chief Instructor</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Class Times</i>	<i>Instructor #</i>
OPEN	JAN 10, 2009	TONY RECCHIA	GOSHEN	1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM	(860) 618-0046
FULL	JAN 12, 2009	RAY GORSKY	LEDYARD	6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM	(860) 871-0023
OPEN	JAN 15, 2009	DICK EMMONS	STAMFORD	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	(203) 357-7505
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	1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM	(860) 738-0097
OPEN	JAN 17, 2009	TONY RECCHIA	LITCHFIELD	1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM	(860) 618-0046
OPEN	JAN 20, 2009	JEFF ROGALA	COVENTRY	6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM	(860) 872-7834
OPEN	JAN 21, 2009	HARRY COYLE	NEW HAVEN	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	(203) 946-8028
OPEN	JAN 22, 2009		BRISTOL	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	JAN 22, 2009	TOM BOURRET	WALLINGFORD	6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	JAN 24, 2009	JIM TONER	BOLTON	9:30 AM TO 12:00 PM	(860) 649-3071
OPEN	JAN 24, 2009	JUDITH WITZKE	FARMINGTON	9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	(860) 992-4669
OPEN	JAN 27, 2009	RAY GORSKY	TOLLAND	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	(860) 871-0023
OPEN	JAN 31, 2009	TOM BOURRET	COVENTRY	8:00 AM TO 11:00 AM	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	FEB 28, 2009	DAN BARVIR	NEW HAVEN	9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM	(203) 946-6086
FULL	MAR 11, 18, APR 1 2009	GENE ROBIDA	CHESTER	3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM	(860) 526-0808
OPEN	MAR 25, APR 1, 8, 2009	JUDITH WITZKE	FARMINGTON	6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM	(860) 992-4669
OPEN	MAR 28, 2009	DAVID MORDAVSKY	MANCHESTER	9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM	(860) 643-9934
OPEN	MAR 31, APR 2, 7, 2009		BRISTOL	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	APR 2, 7, 9, 2009	TOM BOURRET	WALLINGFORD	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	APR 16, 21, 23, 2009	RAY POTKAY	MILFORD	6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM	(203) 395-8371
OPEN	MAY 6, 11, 13, 2009	RAY POTKAY	STRATFORD	6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM	(203) 395-8371
OPEN	MAY 12, 14, 19, 2009		ENFIELD	6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM	(860) 663-1656

FAMILY ICE FISHING DERBY

Saturday, Jan. 31th 8-11 am
on Lake Wangumbaug (Coventry Lake)
Patriot's Park, Lake Street, Coventry

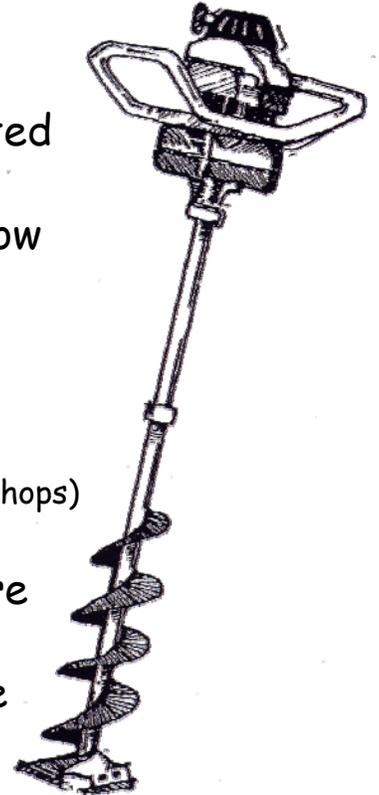


IT'S FREE!



Life too busy? Need some exercise? Stressed-out? Spend a morning outdoors in the fresh air with your kids, family or friends *just having fun!* Let the CT DEP introduce you to this social, wintertime sport.

- ✓ Certified CARE Instructors will help you get started
- ✓ Ice fishing tackle will be available for you to borrow
- ✓ Prizes for all kids age 15 and under
- ✓ ***Adults must have a valid fishing license***
(available online, from most Town Clerk's & at many fishing tackle shops)
- ✓ Refreshments and warm-up lodge available on shore
- ✓ Bring your skates, sleds, footballs & whatever else



For more information, call the CT DEP-Inland Fisheries
at (860) 424-FISH



2008 CARE Instructor Inservice

This past December 14 more than forty CARE Instructors gathered at the DEP Marine District Headquarters in Old Lyme to attend the annual Instructor Inservice. This year's Inservice featured previews of the 3 new *Aquatic Nuisance Species, Lake of Perch-Winter, and Water, Fish, and Fishing* DVD's. The newly revised CARE Policy and Procedures Manual was presented to all attendees along with a review of the 2008 accomplishments and updates for the program. This was all followed by training on how to teach a Family Ice Fishing class in your town. The day was capped off with an entertaining and informative presentation on ice fishing techniques, equipment, tackle, and safety by Captain Blaine Anderson of CT Outfitters. With budget restrictions this year, the Inservice was a pot-luck. Of course, the food was absolutely out of this world. The kindness and generosity of all was evident as five buffet tables quickly filled up with sandwiches, chili, stew, chowder... **IT WAS ARGUABLY THE BEST INSERVICE IN CARE PROGRAM HISTORY!** I hope all that attended enjoyed the event as much as George, Tom, and Justin.

We would also like to thank JUSTIN DAVIS, TONY PERTILLO, BILL GERRISH, and NANCY MURRAY from the DEP Fisheries Division for attending. Certified Instructor LINDA BIRELY went out of her way and recruited Walmart to donate a \$50 gift card for beverages. Thank you, Linda!



Captain BLAINE ANDERSON covered everything you need to know to go out and catch some fish on the hardwater this winter! From spikes to power augers, Captain Blaine covered it in an entertaining fashion. Above, Blaine demonstrates how to rig and bait a tip-up.



What a great day! Forty CARE Instructors try to squeeze in for a group photo. This training was one to remember. Again, THANK YOU for all the time you donated in 2008. Your mission of getting kids and families outside to safely enjoy the natural resources of Connecticut is so important!



**2009 Certified Instructor and
Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs Training
Saturday, February 28, 2009
New Haven, CT
9 am – 3 pm**

Sharing your skills and passion for angling and the outdoors is very rewarding. As a team, we have taught over *125,000 students* across the State. Add over 7 million people that have viewed displays created by the Inland and Marine Fisheries Divisions and the impact is more impressive. In fact, *CARE volunteers have donated the equivalent of \$1.75 million dollars to the DEP over 23 years!*

Here's your chance to join our statewide team of volunteers. To become certified as both a Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) Instructor and a *Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs* Instructor, call **TOM BOURRET at (860) 663-1656**. You can call 24 hours/day and leave a message. You must call and pre-register. Once accepted you will receive a detailed agenda, directions and material to review prior to attending the training class.

The training is hands-on, fun and you will have a chance to meet some of the finest volunteers in the State. You'll make new friends while we educate and entertain you. Guest speakers and veteran Instructors will share experiences and provide helpful tips on getting started. *Don't miss this opportunity to join the over 2,000 volunteers who have taught families across Connecticut about water, fish and fishing!*

Learn more at www.ct.gov/dep

NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE WINTER FESTIVAL

Last year over 800 participants roughed the cold February weather for a day of winter fun at Chatfield Hollow State Park. Children stocked over 250 rainbow trout provided by Quinebaug Hatchery and then got a chance to go jig them up with CARE equipment. CARE volunteers provided expert instruction. A great time was had by all. See below for details regarding the upcoming 2009 event being held at Black Rock State Park in Thomaston. Hope to see some of you there!



Winter Festival

**Saturday, February 7, 2009
10 AM – 3 PM**

**Black Rock State Park
Route 6, Watertown, CT**

FREE!!

No registration required.

**Ice-fishing, snowshoeing, tracking, orienteering
CT Volunteer Horse Patrol, Canine Search and
Rescue, bonfire, and more!!**

**For more information:
CT Department of Environmental Protection
(860) 418-5981
rachael.sunny@ct.gov**



CARE INSTRUCTOR MAKES SHORELINE NEWSPAPERS WITH BIG CATCH!



Pictured: Tom Megargee (DEP fishing instructor, avid freshwater angler and excellent fish chowder creator) landed this colorful CT River cove 40½" 15.7Lb northern pike using live bait.

Photo courtesy of Captain Morgan; December 4, 2008

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

