



# PERCH TALES

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

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## Seeing Red (and yellow)!



Ryan, Nick and Justin Mariasi found the hot-spot for yellow perch on Coventry Lake during our Family Ice Fishing Derby. The Coventry Recreation Department made the lakeside lodge another favorite hotspot with hot cocoa, hot coffee, hot tea, hot cider, bagels, danish and donuts!

We are in the midst of the best winter in 4 years. Over 15 family ice fishing events, including the recent Family Ice Fishing Derby, have provided family fun in every corner of the State. If you attended the Derby, you were *surrounded* by all the new, bright-red tip-ups we bought last year. They've replaced the beige ones that served us well for our first 20 years and the green ones that have been in service for the last 10. The new red ones are a nice improvement!

The second wave of red will begin soon. As you schedule your Family Fishing classes for the springtime, encourage your cosponsors to charge \$13 for registration. In return, everyone gets 10 hours of free training, free materials, *plus a brand new rod to take home and keep!* Class sponsors and Instructors in 2008 reported that this opportunity to take home a high-quality outfit for just \$13 was met with great enthusiasm. Classes in

Bristol, Newington and Farmington participated. So far in 2009, Bristol, Stratford and (maybe) Milford classes are on board. It's a great advantage for folks to have quality gear to use after they graduate from our courses. It also saves us greatly in transport, maintenance and repair. A win-win!

More Derby highlights will appear in the next issue. Right now, enjoy some of the positively great moments from recent classes in pictures and words. Thanks so much for helping families from across Connecticut get ready for the Derby. If you enjoyed it, please contact your town recreation department, scouts or other local group to schedule springtime Family Fishing courses. The rewards and satisfaction will last for years to come. *And remember to offer the opportunity of rods and reels for \$13. You will be glad you did, especially when you see the smiles on everyone's faces as you open those boxes of brand new rods!*

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The next big event for 2009 is **New Instructor Training** on Saturday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> in New Haven. Now is the time to call **TOM** at (860) 663-1656 and register. Call your friends that may be interested.

Thanks for all your hard work on behalf of your hometown friends and neighbors. Without you, they may never have the chance to get out on the ice, the stream or the lake. Thanks for your dedication and expertise! Thanks for a job well done!

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**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 *130,000 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 \$1.85 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](http://www.ct.gov/dep)

## *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 21, 2009	HARRY COYLE	NEW HAVEN	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(203) 946-8028
OPEN	JAN 22, 2009	TONY NORTON	BRISTOL	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(860) 940-8289
OPEN	JAN 22, 2009	JEFF ROGALA	COVENTRY	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	(860) 742-3033
OPEN	JAN 22, 2009	TOM BOURRET	WALLINGFORD	6:30PM TO 8:30PM	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	JAN 24, 2009	JUDITH WITZKE	FARMINGTON	9:00AM TO 12:00PM	(860) 992-4669
OPEN	JAN 24, 2009	JIM TONER	BOLTON	9:30AM TO 12:00PM	(860) 649-3071
OPEN	JAN 27, 2009	RAY GORSKY	TOLLAND	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(860) 871-0023
OPEN	JAN 29, 2009	JUDITH WITZKE	ESSEX	6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM	(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
FULL	MAR 11, 18, APR 1 2009	GENE ROBIDA	CHESTER	3:00PM TO 5:00PM	
FULL	MAR 21, 2009	JOSEPH MERHILL	HAMDEN	1:00PM TO 4:00PM	(203) 888-4154
OPEN	MAR 24, 26, 31 2009	DICK EMMONS	STAMFORD	6:00PM TO 8:30PM	(203) 357-7505
OPEN	MAR 25, APR 1, 8, 2009	JUDITH WITZKE	FARMINGTON	6:00PM TO 8:00PM	(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	JUSTIN WIGGINS	BRISTOL	6:30PM TO 8:30PM	(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	6:00PM TO 8:00PM	(203) 395-8371
OPEN	MAY 12, 14, 19, 2009	MICHAEL DYNIA	ENFIELD	6:00PM TO 8:00PM	(860) 745-9986

# Family Ice Fishing Classes

What a great way to start 2009! The CARE program embraced the busiest January in its 23 year history, and the credit goes to all of you! This past month alone, you all have been responsible for teaching a total 15 Family Ice Fishing classes to over 450 students across the state. On top of that, **GEORGE** and **DIANNE GRENIER** have been very busy promoting ice fishing on WILI Radio, WFSB TV show *Better Connecticut* and in many newspapers. All this was capped off with an extremely cold Family Ice Fishing Derby that was attended by over 300 of your students. Congratulations for such a successful and busy month of January. You all deserve a big pat on the back. Enjoy some pictures of CARE Instructors in action.



**BLAINE ANDERSON** at our Instructor's Inservice training. Blaine is the only icefisherman in CT that we know who has one of these! This training prompted many of you to go out and schedule a Family Ice Fishing class in your town.



**PAUL DONA** shows the most efficient and modern way to transport jigging rods, tip-ups and equipment while on the ice.



**JEFF CARLSON** explains jigging to **THERESA LABARBARA**, during taping of the *Better Connecticut* TV show, which aired on WFSB.



**RUSS HALL** highlights a magnificent specimen in our collection while teaching fish ecology and identification at the Tolland class.



Justin (right) and **ED SMITH** discuss fish identification and the approximate size of "the one that got away" at **GRACE JACOBSON's** Pomfret class.



Chief Instructor **TONY RECCHIA** used the power auger to **wow** students in the classroom and to cut 100 holes at the Derby!



**BOB MANGIONE** (right) and **JOHN BARR** demonstrate how the tallest tip-ups in Connecticut operate!



**JEAN RIES** discusses clothing and ice safety for families attending the class in Tolland.



Chief Instructor **JEFF ROGALA** discusses the finer points of leader and hook selection with students.



**BOB SMITH**, our jigging expert, demonstrates techniques and tackle at the Litchfield Family Ice Fishing class.

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## In the next *Perch Tales*....

Will be filled with information and pictures of the 2009 CARE Family Ice Fishing Derby held at Coventry Lake as well as the *No Child Left Inside* Winter Festival held at Black Rock State Park. Both these events attracted hundreds of novice anglers for their first ice fishing experience. We will also be highlighting New Instructor Training, which is scheduled for February 28. On top of all this, we'll provide details about **ctfisherman.com**, and their donation of Shakespeare spincasting rods and reels to the CARE program.



A happy angler displaying his 11½ inch rainbow trout caught at the Family Ice Fishing Derby at Coventry Lake.

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