



PERCH TALES

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

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The X-Factors



Chief Instructor **DAVID CASKO** offered his students one of the first classes that combined lessons in their hometown with a trip to our CARE Center at Forster Pond. As you can see, results were awesome. We can use your help as more of these courses will be offered soon.

There are always plans. Then, there is reality! Plans have surely helped us increase the odds that we reach one goal: getting families to go fishing together after joining us. However, plans or no plans, some very pleasant *surprises* (I like to call these the *X-Factors*) have led to recent successes.

X-Factor number one I refer to as the *Dianne effect*. Never before has communication among staff and Instructors been so great. **DIANNE GRENIER** has connected so many people wanting courses with Instructors willing to teach them! Not shy about getting the word out, we have all learned so much through Dianne's emails and phone calls. Not just news in the world of CARE, but other things going on in the world of fisheries. Justin has played a role in this as well. But Dianne is the worldwide leader in the field of CARE promotions! We've been on the radio, on TV and in the papers non-stop since Dianne's arrival on staff. Instructors are active and we are happy!

Another *X-Factor* that we could not have planned for is the emergence of the *Northwest Contingent*. For 20 years, residents in northwest CT enjoyed only an occasional CARE event. Up until last year, that is. Longtime friends and Instructors, **TONY RECCHIA & JOHN DELAURENTIS**, changed all that. Family Fishing Courses and Family Ice Fishing events soon became big hits. So much so, that they recruited other CARE Instructors and were teaching on *5 Saturdays in-a-row* this past winter! It has filled a big void in the foothills and was certainly appreciated by the hundreds of families attending! Great work!

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A third *X-Factor* is really a pair of wild cards: our own **TOM** and **JUSTIN**. Since 2008, Justin has been creating courses that feature fishing at Forster Pond as the highlight. Chief Instructor **DAVID CASKO** has helped greatly in getting these courses off the ground. Tom has advanced this, by inviting homeschool families to join us there and by providing CARE materials for them to use. This promises to be the direction of the future. If you've been there, you know our Center and Pond are perfect places to get anyone excited about fishing! Done right, we will have many more anglers and environmental stewards among us in the next couple years! *We will need volunteers to help teach the families at the Center and Pond.* Look inside for June dates. We hope to see you there, or at a class in your hometown! We hope you enjoyed Opening Day! <"}"}"}"}"}><{

X-FACTORS IN ACTION!

CARE has made great strides this past year. We have broken into the public, private, and now home school sectors for the first time ever. The CARE program reached more students in 2008 than any other year this past decade. Our *Water, Fish, and Fishing* video has been updated, and transitioned to DVD to provide the highest quality of information to our students. You all have contributed over 5,000 hours of volunteer time in 2008 to secure CARE funding for the 23rd consecutive year. To top this all off, we started 2009 with the best season of Family Ice Fishing classes in CARE history. Hooray and thanks!



Clockwise from top left: When **DIANNE GRENIER** is not spreading the word of CARE, you can often find her fishing; **TONY RECCHIA** and **JOHN DELAURENTIS** had just unloaded 40 tip ups that they brought to the CARE Family Ice Fishing Derby; Tom and Justin at New Instructor Training in New Haven.



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	APR 2, 7, 9, 2009	MICHAEL BULLARD	WALLINGFORD	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(203) 627-3959
FULL	APR 3, 2009	DAVID SACCHITELLA	GLASTONBURY	12:30PM TO 2:00PM	(860) 652-7706
FULL	APR 8, 9, 18, 2009	DOUG MINEO	WATERBURY	4:00PM TO 7:00PM	(860) 283-8545
OPEN	APR 14, 16, 2009	DAVID SACCHITELLA	GLASTONBURY	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(860) 652-7706
FULL	APR 15, 16, 18, 2009	DOUG MINEO	WATERBURY	4:00PM TO 7:00PM	(860) 283-8545
OPEN	APR 16, 21, 23, 2009	RAY POTKAY	MILFORD	6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM	(203) 395-8371
OPEN	APR 16, 21, 23, 2009	STAN GRABOWSKI	NEWINGTON	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(860) 582-2931
OPEN	APR 19,26, MAY 3, 2009	MAUREEN SCINTO	FAIRFIELD	10:00AM TO 12:00PM	(203) 255-2834
FULL	APR 23, 2009	DAN BARVIR	HAMDEN	1:00PM TO 3:00PM	(203) 946-6086
OPEN	APR 23, 2009	DAN BARVIR	HAMDEN	9:30AM TO 11:30AM	(203) 946-6086
OPEN	APR 24, 25, 2009	LIONEL MACDONALD	SOUTH WINDSOR	7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM	(860) 289-1407
OPEN	APR 24, MAY 1, 8, 2009	FRED FRILLICI	WESTON	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(203) 371-4237
FULL	APR 27, MAY 4, 7, 2009	JEFF GRUETZNER	STAMFORD	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(203) 746-9566
OPEN	APR 28, 29, 30, 2009	JUDITH WITZKE	ESSEX	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(860) 582-4902
FULL	APR 29,2009	CRAIG MERGINS	HARTFORD	11:00AM TO 2:00PM	(860) 713-3131
FULL	MAY 2, 2009	JEFF ROGALA	VERNON	9:00 AM TO 4:00PM	(860) 872-7834
FULL	MAY 4-16, 2009	JUSTIN WIGGINS	STAMFORD	10:00AM TO 2:00PM	(860) 663-1656
OPEN	MAY 6, 11, 13, 2009	RAY POTKAY	STRATFORD	6:00PM TO 8:00PM	(203) 395-8371
OPEN	MAY 9, 2009	RACHEL SUNNY	NEW FAIRFIELD	9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM	(860) 418-5981
OPEN	MAY 12, 14, 19, 2009	MICHAEL DYNIA	ENFIELD	6:00PM TO 8:00PM	(860) 745-9986
FULL	MAY 13, 15, 20, 2009	JUSTIN WIGGINS	HAMDEN	10:00AM TO 2:00PM	(860) 663-1656
FULL	MAY 14, 21, 28, JUN 4, 2009	DAVID CASKO	EAST LYME	3:00PM TO 5:00PM	(860) 739-8438
FULL	JUN 6, 7, 2009	DICK EMMONS	NEW HAVEN	9:30AM TO 3:30PM	(203) 357-7505
OPEN	JUN 7, 2009	TIM IRWIN	COLEBROOK	10:00AM TO 11:00AM	(860) 528-4401
OPEN	JUL 6-10, 2009	DAVID CASKO	OLD LYME	9:00AM TO 3:00PM	(860) 739-8438
OPEN	JUL 20-24, 2009	DAVID CASKO	OLD LYME	9:00AM TO 3:00PM	(860) 739-8438

New Courses at the CARE Center at Forster Pond

Last spring, three 4th grade classes took part in a pilot program at our very own CARE Center at Forster Pond. These courses were unique in the fact that teachers incorporated several modules of our CARE curriculum into their classroom lessons. The materials taught in school focused on principles of water, wetlands, fish biology, ecology, habitat, fish ID and outdoor ethics.

These lessons provided students with a background for a trip to the CARE Center at Forster Pond. There, students and parent-chaperones joined Instructors for a day of fun and learning. Students learned about bait, tackle, casting, and finally put all their new knowledge to the test while fishing in Forster Pond. Students, teachers, principals, and staff loved the experiences and the outcomes. Every student caught at least one fish!

This spring we are expanding the program to include homeschool families in addition to other school groups. We've scheduled 8 classes. ***YOUR HELP IS NEEDED from 12:30pm to 2:00pm*** for the fishing portion of each class. With over twenty kids and adults baiting, casting, and catching at each class, we can use as many experts as we can get! Call the CARE Center at (860) 663-1656 if you can join us and lend a hand.

CARE Center at Forster Pond 2009 Spring Schedule		
<u>Visiting Group</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Stamford Elementary	May 16	10am to 2pm
Hamden 6 th grade	May 20	10am to 2pm
Terryville 7 th grade	May 27	10am to 2pm
Homeschoolers	June 2	10am to 2pm
East Lyme Middle School	June 4	10am to 2pm
Homeschoolers	June 9	10am to 2pm
Homeschoolers	June 11	10am to 2pm
Homeschoolers	June 16	10am to 2pm



East Lyme Middle School students are shown fishing alongside their parents at Forster Pond. The CARE Center is the perfect venue to introduce beginner anglers to fishing. Research shows that aesthetically pleasing scenery, fishing success, and parental support are the perfect formula for creating new anglers. The CARE Center at Forster Pond offers all three of these to our participants!



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April 7, 2009

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

DEP 2009 PRESEASON TROUT STOCKING WELL UNDERWAY

Opening Day of trout season is Saturday, April 18th Trout Management Areas offer preseason angling opportunities

FIND YOUR RODS, DUST OFF YOUR LURES, CHECK YOUR WADERS, AND GET READY FOR OPENING DAY OF TROUT FISHING SEASON! The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is also gearing up for the 2009 season. DEP's Inland Fisheries Division began its annual spring trout stocking on March 4th, and expects to have 386,000 trout stocked throughout the state by Opening Day on April 18, 2009.



DEP will have stocked a total of 1,800 "broodstock" rainbow and brown trout throughout the state before Opening Day. These fish, such as this "broodstock" rainbow trout, typically weigh from 3 to 10 lbs apiece.

"For many Connecticut families, Opening Day is a tradition rich in memories, and the first opportunity of the season to get outdoors and go trout fishing," said Susan Frechette, Deputy Commissioner of the DEP.

"Fishing is one of the outdoor activities that we are encouraging more people to do as part of our *No Child Left Inside* campaign. Fishing can be a great, and relatively inexpensive, outdoor adventure for the entire family."

Our hatchery staff have worked hard to get another excellent crop of trout ready for Opening Day, said Deputy Commissioner Frechette. “Connecticut’s anglers can look forward to exceptional trout fishing this spring.” Over 200 truckloads of trout will be distributed throughout the state in preparation for Opening Day. These trout will be released into 102 lakes and ponds and 201 rivers and streams throughout Connecticut. The following species & sizes will be stocked for Opening Day:

66,700	brook trout	(10-11 inch)
198,600	brown trout	(10-11 inch)
7,000	brown trout	(12 inch)
6,500	tiger trout	(10-12 inch brook/brown hybrid)
90,000	rainbow trout	(10-12 inch)
16,000	rainbow trout	(12-14 inch)
1,800	surplus broodstock	(3-10 pound trout)

An additional 700 broodstock Seeforellen strain brown trout ranging in size from 1 to 19 pounds were stocked into 13 lakes and ponds in late December, 2008 and early January, 2009. The broodstock were released into Bashan Lake, Beach Pond, Black Pond (Middlefield/Meriden), Black Pond (Woodstock), Cedar Lake (Chester), Coventry Lake, , Mohawk Pond, Mt. Tom Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Stillwater Pond, Tyler Lake, West Hill Pond and West Side Pond.

Trout anglers looking for an early start to the fishing season can visit one of the state’s sixteen Trout Management Areas (TMA). All these popular areas are open for pre-season catch-and-release fishing. The TMA’s on the Mill River (Fairfield), Saugatuck River, Pequabuck River (including Coppermine Brook), Hammonasset River, Hockanum River, Mill River (Hamden), Naugatuck River, Farmington River, Mianus River, Willimantic River, Moosup River, Yantic River, and Salmon River have already been stocked. There are also plenty of large holdover trout in the TMA’s located on the West Branch Farmington River and the Housatonic River (Housatonic River TMA in Cornwall/Sharon). Class I Wild Trout Management Areas (WTMA) are also open year-round for catch-and-release fishing, and are located on Deep Brook, Eightmile River, Hawleys Brook, Beaver Brook/Merrick Brook, Macedonia Brook, Mill River (in Easton), Quinnipiac River, Tankerhoosen River, and Wachocastinook (Riga) Brook. Additionally, downstream portions of five of the designated Sea-run Trout Streams (Eightmile River, Farm River, Hammonasset River, Latimer Brook, Whitford Brook) are open year-round with a two trout per day creel limit and a fifteen-inch minimum length.

Anglers should consult their 2009 CT Angler’s Guide for detailed information on specific locations and angling regulations. Angler’s Guides are available at many DEP offices, all Town Clerks Offices and at many tackle shops and other retail vendors of fishing equipment. Anglers can now purchase their fishing licenses directly online, or at one of the many participating town halls, tackle retailers and DEP offices. For a complete list of vendors, visit the DEP website (www.ct.gov/dep/fishing) or call DEP Licensing and Revenue (860-424-3105).

PROHIBITION ON THE TAKING OF ALEWIFE AND BLUEBACK HERRING FROM CONNECTICUT WATERS EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER YEAR

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced that the prohibition on the taking of alewives and blueback herring from most inland and marine waters of the State of Connecticut has been extended for another year. This action was initially taken in April of 2002, and then continued each successive year through March 31, 2009. The current action by DEP Deputy Commissioner Susan Frechette extends the prohibition through March 31, 2010.

"The DEP initially took this action in 2002 because river herring populations had declined to historically low levels," said Deputy Commissioner Frechette. "Since that time, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and North Carolina have all closed their river herring fisheries as well—demonstrating this is a region wide problem."

River herring is a term used to collectively refer to alewife and the blueback herring. Both species are anadromous, which means they hatch in freshwater, migrate to the ocean to grow, then return to freshwater to spawn. Historically, river herring runs into Connecticut rivers and streams have numbered into the millions; however, runs have been declining steadily since 1990. In 1985, 630,000 blueback herring were passed over the Holyoke Dam on the Connecticut River. In 2006, only 21 passed, the lowest number in the history of the Holyoke Fishlift. Last year the number was 84 river herring.

"River herring are important to our freshwater, marine and estuarine ecosystems because adult herring and their young provide food for a variety of predators including freshwater gamefish, marine gamefish, osprey, bald eagle, harbor seals, porpoise, egrets, kingfishers, and river otter," said Edward Parker, Chief of DEP's Bureau of Natural Resources. DEP wildlife biologists have noted that strong runs of river herring enhance the survival rate of osprey chicks.

The DEP sees no indication that the river herring populations will rebound anytime soon and the prohibition on the taking of river herring could likely extend well into the future. "We will continue to monitor the State's river herring runs and will continue to extend the prohibition until they have recovered to the point where we believe that they are out of danger. Protecting populations of wild fish is one of our top priorities," said Parker. Monitoring conducted during 2008 indicated that the river herring stocks remain depressed and DEP found no signs of an imminent recovery of river herring populations. "The fishery closure will reduce fishing mortality, thereby helping to protect small spawning runs until such time as the regional trend is reversed," noted Parker.

The DEP will continue its other efforts to enhance river herring stocks by transplanting adult herring from streams with healthy runs into streams where runs have been eliminated or greatly depleted, removing obsolete dams and building fishways that allow fish to migrate past remaining dams.

Great Park Pursuit Olympics

Saturday, May 9, 2009

9 AM – 3 PM

**Squantz Pond State Park
New Fairfield, CT**

**Fishing, archery, canoe races,
orienteering, picnicking contest,
tent setting up races, and more!!**

For more information:

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**The GREAT
PARK PURSUIT**

**The CT State Parks
Family Adventure**

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