



# PERCH TALES

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

Volume 23

Number 5

May 2009

## Xtreme Fishing!



It has been a long time since you saw me on the front page. It has also been a long time (never!) since I caught an Opening Day fish 2 feet long! If I can do it, fishing in Connecticut has never been better! Get your students out onto your local ponds, lakes, and rivers soon!

Everything seems to be Xtreme today. Xtreme skiing. Xtreme biking. Xtreme whatever. CARE has entered the world of Xtreme too. The solid *core* of what we do remains Family Fishing Courses. These account for about 70% of time Instructors spend interacting with students. It is the very best way to teach families about conservation, ecology, angling and sportsmanship. Recently, we've also entered areas at the *extreme* ends of the aquatic resources education spectrum!

An advanced-level seminar led by **DAVE MORDAVSKY** targeted avid trout and salmon anglers. Trolling lessons, featuring high-tech gear, electronics and gadgets, attracted 50 anglers who pursue trout like I pursue a venison backstrap on the grill. These 50 devotees could not get enough technology, science or gizmos to fool their wily prey. I for one am not as avid, but admit I plan to try trolling and a downrigger this season.

The other *extreme* was a group of 50 fourth graders, parents and teachers in pursuit of white suckers. **Suckerfest 2009** lured them to a tributary of Andover Lake where the fish had entered to spawn. The trip followed **DIANNE GRENIER's** visit to their school classrooms. The suckers were jumbos and the kids were on them! After being surrounded, the fish were netted (or grabbed with their hands), measured and returned to the brook. It was so exciting that one kid remarked, "***This is more fun than Six Flags!***" Of course it is! Their waterpark isn't open in mid-April!

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What Family Fishing Courses, specialized seminars and **Suckerfest 2009** have in common is ***extreme fun!*** I'll bet the trollers will tell you their seminar was more fun than *Six Flags* too. And families fishing together on Opening Day following **MIKE BULLARD's** Wallingford course or **DAVE SACCHITELLA's** Glastonbury course will tell you the same. It is this ***fun*** that we capitalize on when we sneak in information on ecology, playing by the rules and helping conserve the natural world around us. Great and valuable contributions, all thanks to you!

Take a look inside for highlights of your recent successes. There will be many more to come! Then, while out fishing, breathe a little deeper and a little easier. Know that you've helped make our rivers and ponds a bit nicer for all, by volunteering your time creating ethical anglers. I hope one of your students approaches you on the water very soon and says ***thanks for teaching me fishing!***

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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	APR 23, 30, MAY 7	FRED FRILLICI	STRATFORD	9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM	(203) 371-4237
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, MAY 1, 8, 2009	FRED FRILLICI	WESTON	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	(203) 371-4237
OPEN	APR 24, 25, 2009	LIONEL MACDONALD	SOUTH WINDSOR	7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM	(860) 289-1407
FULL	APR 25, 2009	LENNY TUBBS	BERLIN	9:00AM TO 12:00PM	(860) 829-0296
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	3:00 PM TO 4:00 PM	(860) 872-7834
OPEN	MAY 2, 2009	TOM BOURRET	NEW MILFORD	8:30AM TO 1:30PM	(860) 663-1656
FULL	MAY 2, 2009	JEFF ROGALA	VERNON	9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM	(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	MAY 16, 2009	JEFF ROGALA	EAST HADDAM	11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM	(860) 872-7834
FULL	MAY 26, 2009	GEORGE BABEY	WINDHAM	4:00 PM TO 5:00 PM	(860) 424-3481
FULL	MAY 31, 2009	LENNY TUBBS	BERLIN	9:00AM TO 12:00PM	(860) 829-0296
FULL	JUN 6, 7, 2009	DICK EMMONS	NEW HAVEN	9:30AM TO 3:30PM	(203) 357-7505
OPEN	JUN 7, 2009	TIM IRWIN	COLEBROOK	10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM	(860) 528-4401
OPEN	JUN 8, 10, AUG 15	DAVID SACCHITELLA	HEBRON	6:30PM TO 8:30PM	(860) 652-7706
OPEN	JUL 6-10, 2009	DAVID CASKO	OLD LYME	9:00AM TO 3:00PM	(860) 739-8438
FULL	JUL 13-17, 2009	GRACE JACOBSON	POMFRET	9:00AM TO 2:00PM	(860) 974-2773
OPEN	JUL 20-24, 2009	DAVID CASKO	OLD LYME	9:00AM TO 3:00PM	(860) 739-8438
FULL	JUL 27-31, 2009	GRACE JACOBSON	POMFRET	9:00AM TO 2:00PM	(860) 974-2773
OPEN	JUL 30, 2009	DAVID CASKO	KILLINGWORTH	10:00AM TO 2:00PM	(860) 739-843

# Advanced Trolling Seminar

Chief Instructor Dave Mordavsky



The Trolling seminar has attracted students and guest presenters from 6 states. This year, student demand exceeded expectations. Dave capped registration at 50 people and started planning for 2010!



The material is more technical than in other events. A fair amount of physics, chemistry and fish sensory mechanisms are discussed in detail. Notes make it easier to recall and apply the information later.



The class is comprised of avid trout and salmon anglers, not our usual families. The class is fast-paced and covers a wide spectrum of methods and equipment used around the world.

# SUCKERFEST '09

Chief Instructor Dianne Grenier



*Suckerfest 2009* revolves around the white suckers' behavior of leaving lakes and entering brooks to spawn. They are very durable fish. Note the erosion on the pectoral fins associated with the spawning process.



This year's project began with **DIANNE GRENIER** assisting 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students from Andover who were raising salmon fry in their classroom. It expanded into a field trip to a local tributary with students collecting white suckers. These fish are heavy, averaging 2 pounds each!



The kids locate pockets of water where white suckers gather. The catching is quick! Suckers in the small brook sometimes exceed 100 fish and spawning may last a week or more. It is quite a sight and has created the perfect *teachable moment!* Thanks to **DIANNE's** energy and advertising, it has created great awareness and interest in fish ecology.

Junior Instructor **TONY HAWES** helps students measure their catch. The largest specimens are over 20-inches long! Many recaptures are noted.



Certified Instructor **LAUREN CARRARA** continues measuring fish, while their teacher records data on a sheet. Population information like mean length, median catch and modal length are calculated in lessons back in their classroom.

It is difficult to get the kids out of the brook. We used the fish display (and lunch!) to reconvene students. **DIANNE** and **GEORGE** compared and contrasted white sucker adaptations and behavior with that of other freshwater fish in the display. The kids were really excited by the field experience, which resulted in great questions and discussions!



# HUGE PIKE!

These pictures has been floating around the internet and in emails for about a year now. Enjoy them if you have not already seen them. There are no accurate details about where and when this pike was caught, but it is still an amazing catch. This is all part of the magic and mystery of fishing, you never know when and where that trophy fish could be lurking!



## Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

### *DEP Marine Fisheries News*

The **Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Marine Fisheries Division** has initiated *Marine Fisheries Email News*, an email distribution of Marine Fisheries related news and notices. Utilizing a list serve hosted by the Department of Information Technology – Internet Services, the Division will email notices related to recreational and commercial fishery openings and closings, regulation changes, public hearing announcements and other relevant news.

### Current Lobster Stock Information Now Available

May 18, 2009

The Marine Fisheries Division has posted new material on its website. This includes the latest lobster monitoring project report, which describes the current status of the Long Island Sound lobster population and the Connecticut commercial lobster fishery. See the [Lobster Monitoring Program](#) website.

In addition, viewers will find a link to the current Atlantic Coast American Lobster Stock Assessment and Peer Review documents that can be found on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission website. These materials were made available to the public during the Commission's spring meeting week which took place May 4-7, 2009.

The Long Island Sound lobster population is assessed as part of the Southern New England lobster stock, which extends from south of Cape Cod to offshore New Jersey.

For further information, contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371, by email at [dep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:dep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov) or by telephone at 860.434.6043 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

The DEP is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. In conformance with the ADA individuals with disabilities who need information in an alternative format, to allow them to benefit and/or participate in the agency's programs and services, should call (860) 424-3051 or (860) 418-5937 and make their request to the AAO staff person. Requests for accommodations to attend meetings and/or educational programs, sponsored by the DEP, must be made at least two weeks prior to the program date.



Chief Instructor **STAN GRABOWSKI** and Certified Instructor **JOHN BARR** are shown giving a fish identification lesson at a recent Newington CARE Family Fishing course. This spring, hundreds of new anglers were introduced to fishing thanks to all of you. Great job once again!

Constituent Services-CARE Program  
CT DEP-Fisheries Division  
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