



# PERCH TALES

A Periodic Newsletter of the  
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
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## ...the Tough Get Going



Chief Instructor **TONY ZEMA** transfers fish into the livewell of the electrofishing boat. Attendees of the Inservice training sampled Forster Pond and had fun while learning fisheries management techniques.

You've all heard the saying, *When the Going Gets Tough...* It's tough right now! The down economy has forced Instructors and staff alike to re-think what they do. If you attended Inservice Training at the CARE Center (highlights inside), you know we all had a great time. But we had to do it with your lunchtime contributions. To your credit, you came up with a delicious menu that would rival most restaurants! Plus, you worked so hard this year!

**JUSTIN** compiled the 2009 Student and Instructor reports and delivered results at the meeting. In these difficult times, you've continued to lead the charge, increasing last year's student total by 1,000 students! Instructors also volunteered 5,000 hours to the DEP in 2009. All this at a time when we were largely unable to purchase anything because of the State's fiscal crisis!

Thanks to our great friend at *Pure Fishing*, **ROXANNE COLEMAN**, we continued to make rods and reels available to students. But aside from that, very little new equipment appeared this year. We're at a point where *Perch Tales* is now an e-newsletter due to cutbacks in printing too.

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Despite these obstacles, your CARE Instructor team has now contributed close to \$3 million to the State since you started doing this 23 years ago. Three of those Charter Members, **JOHN DELAURENTIS**, **DAVE MAJORS** and **JOE WOZNIAK**, joined us at the Inservice to electrofish Forster Pond. Also attending were many others, including **MIKE BULLARD**, **DAVE CONNELLY** & **VICTOR RIOS** who successfully ran courses in their very first year. Last but not least, congratulations to **RAY POTKAY** and **JEAN RIES**, who attended and received their jackets for 10 years of service! Together, you are *The Tough That Get Going!*

Scheduled Family Ice Fishing classes appear inside this issue. Right now is the time to get yours set up for 2010! **Happy Halloween!** We hope to see you very soon!

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# Family Ice Fishing Courses



A proud angler displays this 11 inch rainbow trout caught at last year's Family Ice Fishing Derby held at Coventry Lake. Mark your calendar for the 2010 derby, being held January 30th.

It's never too early to schedule a CARE Family Ice Fishing course in your town! Below you will find several classes that have already been established for 2010. Family Ice Fishing courses are generally 1-night events that are held for 2 hours. All your students that attend the course are invited to our Family Ice Fishing Derby held at Coventry Lake on January 30, 2010. If you are not an avid ice fishermen but still want to host a course in your town, schedule a class and we will find you a "sled person". The sled person will be responsible for bringing all the necessary ice fishing equipment and explaining proper use to the class. Call the CARE Center at (860) 663-1656 once you have a date and we'll get you on the schedule!

## *2010 Family Ice Fishing Course Schedule*

<i>Status</i>	<i>Class Dates</i>	<i>Chief Instructor</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Class Times</i>	<i>Instructor #</i>
OPEN	JAN 15, 2010	JIM MURTAGH	GUILFORD	6:30pm to 8:30pm	(203) 453-6052
OPEN	JAN 16, 2010	TONY RECCHIA	LITCHFIELD	1:00pm to 4:00pm	(860) 618-0046
OPEN	JAN 19, 2010	JEFF ROGALA	COVENTRY	6:30pm to 8:30pm	(860) 872-7834
OPEN	JAN 20, 2010	HARRY COYLE	NEW HAVEN	6:30pm to 8:30pm	(203) 946-8028
OPEN	JAN 21, 2010	MICHAEL BULLARD	WALLINGFORD	6:3 pm to 8:30pm	(203) 627-3959
OPEN	JAN 21, 2010	DAVID SACCHITELLA	GLASTONBURY	6:30pm to 8:30pm	(860) 652-7706
OPEN	JAN 22, 2010	GRACE JACOBSON	POMFRET	6:30pm to 8:30pm	(860) 974-2773
OPEN	JAN 30, 2010	JUSTIN WIGGINS	COVENTRY	8:00am to 11:00am	(860) 663-1656

# 2009 Inservice Training

This past October 3<sup>rd</sup> Fisheries Biologist **JUSTIN DAVIS** hauled the DEP's brand new, state-of-the-art electrofishing boat to our very own CARE Center for a day of fun and education on Forster Pond. Over 20 Certified Instructors joined us for a great day on the water. Even though the weather forecast looked grim, the rain let up for a 3 hour window which allowed us to sample the fish population of Forster Pond using electricity! All that attended were very quick to volunteer and do some "electroshocking". We were able to stun and sample largemouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, American eels, black crappie, and sunfish. The day was capped off with a mouth-watering lunch that put to shame any game dinner that I have ever attended. CARE updates and plans for the future were discussed as we ate lunch and dessert. Several Instructors hung around the CARE Center after the completion of the Inservice for some fishing, while others walked across the street for some trout fishing at Chatfield Hollow State park. I hope all that attended had as good a time as **GEORGE** and I. For those that missed out, maybe next year! Enjoy some pictures.

The day consisted of some great people getting together for some food, fun, fishing, and socializing. **JOE WOZNIAK** is shown on the right, fishing at one of five fishing areas on Forster Pond. The bite was slow that day, maybe due to the recently stunned fish? Below you can find **STAN GRABOWSKI, GEORGE, TONY ZEMA, and JOHN RYAN** engaged in a stimulating conversation. It is always great to get together with folks that have similar interests and passions.



# Instructors in Action!



Clockwise from top left: **KEVIN FULLER, RAY POTKAY, VICTOR RIOS,** and **JOHN BARR** prepare the electrofishing boat on Forster Pond for a morning of fish sampling; **DIANNE GRENIER** shows her excitement as a new group of Instructors head out on the water; **JUSTIN DAVIS** is shown giving an explanation to Instructors above a livewell full of fish; **MIKE BULLARD** and **STAN GRABOWSKI** stand on the bow of the electrofishing boat on their way back to the launch. The booms you see hanging on the bow of the boat are lowered into the water during sampling. They conduct electrical impulses that stun the fish, which are then netted by the two Instructors standing on the bow. The fish are then transferred into the livewell for processing and released.





After a few hours of electroshocking, everyone seemed to work up an appetite. Good thing because there was lots of delicious food to eat. The food, company, and conversation are something we look forward to every year. Thank you all once again, and we look forward to seeing you on the ice!

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