## Volume 3, Issue 2 Spring 2010

# Wild Rhode Island



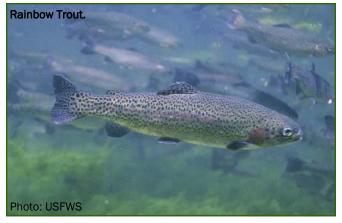
A Quarterly Publication from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, RI Department of Environmental Management

## Opening Day for Trout Season - April 10, 2010 by Christine Dudley

Trout Season will officially open Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 6 AM. Approximately 80,000 trout will be stocked in over 100 locations statewide for anglers to enjoy. A 2010 Freshwater Fishing License is required, and a Trout Stamp is necessary for those that want to keep or possess a trout.

Why not try some new spots this year? Brook, brown and rainbow trout have been diligently raised at our three trout hatcheries by our experienced

staff for the 2010 fishing season. Some of the more popular stocked areas are: Olney Pond in Lincoln Woods State Park, Big and Little Roundtop Ponds in Burrillville, Carbuncle Pond in Coventry, Silver Spring Lake in North Kingstown, Barber Pond in South Kingstown, Carolina Trout Pond and Meadowbrook Pond both in Richmond, Stafford Pond in Tiverton, and



many spots along the Wood River. We have fishing areas for children only: Frosty Hollow Pond in Exeter, Geneva Pond in North Providence, Lloyd Kenney Pond in Hopkinton, Silvey's Pond in Cumberland, and Seidel's Pond in Cranston.

The state has wheelchair accessible fishing areas at Silver Spring Lake, Carbuncle Pond, Frosty Hollow Pond, Olney Pond, Roaring Brook in Exeter and Slater Park Pond in Paw-

tucket. The Division will also be providing fish for special events open to the public such as children's derbies. Fishing Access maps are available at DEM state offices and from the

Division. Call us at 789-0281 to find out more.



Learn more about our Free Fishing Days and our Golden Trout contest on Page 8!

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At some time everyone has faced a situation where they have found a fledgling bird in the backyard, the family dog uncovered a nest of cottontail rabbits or some other circumstance where an injured or apparently orphaned small animal has appeared on their doorstep. Many people will feel compelled to try to rescue and raise the orphaned or injured animal on their own. After all, they are cute and the kids are really excited about raising a baby gray squirrel. Maybe the kids can take it into school for show and tell. Are you really doing the right thing if you decide to take in an orphaned or injured wild animal? Is it the best thing to do for the animal? Is it legal, or safe?

For that "orphaned" bird or injured juvenile cottontail to have the best possibility of being returned to the wild and surviving, it must have proper care. Every species and age group has its own unique dietary, care, and housing re-



quirements. Without proper protection, you could expose yourself, your family, or your pets to injuries, diseases or parasites. Improper handling, housing, or nutrition could worsen injuries or illness or create new ones. The commitment

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#### THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to ensure that the Freshwater, Marine and Wildlife resources of the State of Rhode Island will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use.

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Rhode Island Department of
Environmental Management

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For a free subscription to *Wild Rhode Island* please call (401) 789-0281 or send an email to veronica.masson@dem.ri.gov. Please indicate whether you would like to have the newsletter sent to you via email or US mail.

Wild Rhode Island is also available on the web at: www.dem.ri.gov

To report an environmental emergency or violation please call the RIDEM Division of Law Enforcement (401) 222-3070

## Wild Access: Succotash Parking Area by John MacCoy

In June 2009, three parking lots were replaced at the RIDEM Succotash Salt Marsh property. The purpose of this work was to create access for all vehicles, not

just four-wheel drive vehicles. Prior to our repairs, cars would become stuck in the soft sand. Before any construction started the proper permits were obtained from CRMC to make these parking lots accessible to everyone.

We started the project by removing the soft sand. All of the sand had to be trucked off-site under the CRMC permit. The sand was trucked up to the Holly Property located in Charlestown. The Holly Property is part of the Burlingame Management Area

which encompasses the state acquired land used for hunting and recreation. On this particular piece of property there was an abandoned built-in swimming pool, and the sand from the parking lots to fill in the swimming pool.

While we were digging we came across a few buried wires and Dig Safe Systems, Inc, was called. It turns out that the wires

were from downed poles from the 1938 Hurricane.

After all the soft sand had been removed and the pool was filled a fabric barrier was placed in the parking areas. The fabric barrier was laid in place and covered with processed gravel. The processed gravel was then graded out to the grade stake elevations and compacted to the permit requirements.

This is a beautiful

place to sit and watch the boats go by. Right across the water is the dock for the Block Island Ferry and a beautiful view of the Galilee fishing fleet.

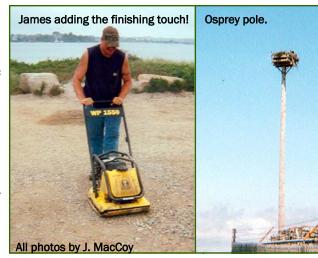
> Bring some binoculars! On the opposite side of the parking area is Succotash Salt Marsh where there are great bird watching opportunities. There is also an Osprey pole that we installed in 2008. While we were working the pole had a nest which was in use. We had the pleasure to see the fruits of our labor as we watched the mother osprey bring food back to her young.

So where are these parking lots located? They are

located in the Town of South Kingstown off US Route 1, at the end of Succotash Road in Jerusalem. There are a few things to keep in mind. There is only enough parking for about 20 vehicles and you are not allowed to park on the roadway (you may get a ticket!). There are no bathroom facilities and dogs must be on a leash. The Division of Fish and Wildlife hopes you enjoy this area!







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#### Whatever happened to the Jamestown Bridge? By Nicole Travisono

On April 18, 2006, spectators from all over the state gathered to view the demolition of the old Jamestown Bridge. What has remained unclear to many Rhode Islanders since the demolition however, is what became of the bridge that

served Rhode Island for over 50 years. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management devised a plan to use the concrete slabs and rubble from the demolition of the old Jamestown Bridge to create two inshore artificial reef sites. By doing so, the state was able to recycle a large portion of the materials from the old Jamestown Bridge and at the

Jamestown Bridge and at the same time create an area of increased biodiversity to benefit recreational fisherman and divers in Rhode Island. Other states including New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts have been successful in creating highly productive artificial reefs which have attracted popular recreational fish species for anglers and provided divers with areas of diverse marine life for viewing.

Construction of the two artificial reefs, Gooseberry Island Reef and Sheep Point Reef, began in

April of 2006 and concluded in August 2007. The Gooseberry Island Reef is located 1.5 miles south of Newport, RI, while the Sheep Point Reef is located 1.1 miles east of Newport, RI. Both reefs span an area of 0.012 miles² with the Gooseberry Island Reef being the deepest in approximately 80 feet of water and the Sheep Point Reef slightly shallower in approximately 65 feet of water.

Upon completion of the artificial reefs a single transect line composed of white sinking line was deployed at each reef site and spans 650 feet across in a northwest-southeast di-

rection. These transect lines serve as a guide for research divers taking underwater video and photographs of the reefs. Additionally, in March 2008, 22 cryptic habitat units were deployed at the two reef sites, 11 at each site. Each cryptic habitat unit stands approximately 5.5 feet tall and is composed of a concrete base, a concrete pedestal, and a plastic-coated wire mesh cage. The wire cage holds 150 surf clam shells which provide interstitial spaces for small organisms such as juvenile fish and lobster to hide.

The cryptic habitat units were designed to provide a temporary substrate similar to that of the artificial reefs for foul-

ing and epifaunal invertebrate communities to colonize. These units can later be retrieved and analyzed at the DEM Marine Fisheries Laboratory to determine the abundance, biomass and number of species present on the units. This data

can then be used as a proxy for what can be found on the artificial reefs

In 2009, the RI DEM in collaboration with Natasha Pinckard, a Masters candidate from the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, retrieved and analyzed three of the cryptic habitat units. One unit from the Gooseberry Island Reef and two units from the Sheep Point Reef

were retrieved, each having a seafloor footprint of 0.66 m<sup>2</sup>. In this small area, 44 different species were present on the Gooseberry Island Reef unit while the two Sheep Point units had 65 and 68 different species present. Among the species present were a large number of barnacles, blue mussels, slipper snails, jingle shells, dove snails and tunicates. Other invertebrate species such as crabs, seastars, and anemones were also found on the units. Among the tunicates present, the invasive colonial ascidian Didem-

num vexillum was found on the Sheep Point units. It is likely that the shallower depth and closer proximity to Newport could explain the presence of *D. vexillum* at the Sheep Point Reef but not the Gooseberry Island Reef. Retrieval of additional units in 2010 and subsequent years will provide a glimpse into the pattern of succession of epifaunal organisms over time.

Future plans for the Rhode Island artificial reefs include the development of a website that can be accessed from the RI DEM Marine Fisheries homepage. This webpage will

be completely dedicated to the RI artificial reefs and will contain important information on the status of the reefs, maps, photographs, and current research for the public to view.

In addition to the development of the aforementioned website, the RI DEM will continue to retrieve cryptic habitat units from the two reefs to monitor the epifaunal community and an annual multi-beam survey will be conducted to monitor the movement and/or sinking of the reef materials. For more information on the RI artificial reefs please contact the Marine Fisheries Laboratory at Ft. Wetherill in Jamestown, RI at (401) 423-1920.



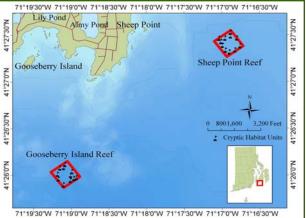




Photo: Courtesy of Marine Fisheries, Natasha Pinckard

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#### Wildlife Rehabilitation in Rhode Island by Charles Brown

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of time and resources required to meet all the needs of an injured or orphaned wild animal can be difficult to imagine.

It is illegal to keep or care for any wild animal in Rhode Island unless you have the appropriate permits. Persons who are properly licensed, trained, and experienced to provide care of sick, injured or orphaned wildlife until such time as they can be released back into the wild are called wildlife rehabilitators. Wildlife rehabilitators are not veterinarians but work closely with them to diagnose and treat illnesses

and injuries. In addition to the necessary permits, wildlife rehabilitators must possess considerable patience, passion, and dedication to the work they do. Wildlife rehabilitators do not receive money from the state or get paid for their services and must cover their own expenses or rely on donations.

Wildlife rehabilitators provide places for the public to bring wild animals in need of care. The goal of all wildlife rehabilitators is to properly care for sick, injured, or orphaned wild animals until they are healthy enough to be released

back into the wild. Wildlife rehabilitators do not attempt to make pets out of wild animals and are extremely careful not to have animals become dependent on them or lose their fear of humans. When released, wild animals must be able to function in their natural environments and feed, mate, raise offspring, migrate, and avoid predators. Animals that cannot be expected to perform these normal activities and are unable to be returned to and survive in the wild because of the extent of their illness or injuries are euthanized in a humane manner.

Wildlife rehabilitators also have an important role in educating the public about wildlife. Rehabilitators provide sound biological information to the general public based on their training and experience. Sometimes the best type of rehabilitation is *preventative*. That fledgling bird may have been just fine, its parents were probably watching from a nearby tree. Return it to the backyard and keep the cat in the house. The "orphaned" fawn the kids found in the woods is likely not an orphan at all. Adult female deer will leave their young fawns alone while they feed. These situations occur all the time and often the best thing to do is put the young animal back where it was found and let the parents return to care for it.

To become a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in Rhode Island you must be at least 18 years old and successfully complete the "Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Class" administered by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. This two-

day course, hosted annually by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, covers a variety of topics including animal physiology, nutrition, handling and restraint techniques, administering drugs, and wildlife diseases. You must also pass a written examination administered by the Division. Applicants must provide a letter from a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian indicating that veterinary services will be provided to them when needed. Additionally, an applicant must demonstrate that their facilities meet or exceed the defined minimum

Baby woodchuck getting a bath.

Ovstercatcher being fed.



care. First time applicants that meet all the necessary requirements are initially licensed as a Level 1 Apprentice, and work under the supervision of a licensed Level 2 rehabilitator sponsor for one full year. After one year, and a sponsor's letter of recommendation, an Apprentice can apply to become a Level 2 Wildlife Rehabilitator. A person with a Level 2 license can accept a variety of small birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Re-

standards for housing and

habilitation of raptors (hawks and owls) or rabies vector species (raccoons, skunks, foxes, and woodchucks) requires additional levels of experience, training, and permitting. A permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also required to care for all migratory birds.

Some aspiring rehabilitators choose to become Level P Sub-permittees first. Sub-permittees cannot accept wild animals directly from the public but work under the direct supervision of Level 2

rehabilitators to help care for healthy, orphaned, non-rabies vector species juvenile mammals and birds. At least six hours of formal training and 25 hours of supervised hands-on training must be completed. A written Sub-permittee exam administered by the Division must also be passed. This track allows a person to gradually learn practical skills and techniques with the guidance and support of an experienced rehabilitator. The Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island offers sub-permittee training courses that satisfy the requirement for licensing.

Being a wildlife rehabilitator may not be for everyone. In addition to the necessary permits it takes a tremendous commitment of time and energy. If you would like to learn more about becoming a wildlife rehabilitator contact the Division or the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (<a href="https://www.riwildliferehab.org">www.riwildliferehab.org</a>). If you find a wild animal that may require care and would like to locate a licensed wildlife rehabilitator contact the Division at 789-0281.

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VISITING HOURS MON-FRI 9 00 3 00

CLOSED-SAT-SUN&HOLIDAYS

## A Visit to The Lafayette Trout Hatchery by Kimberly Sullivan

Located on a rural road in North Kingstown, a long wooded driveway takes you to a clearing with an old cinder

block garage on the left, large black columns of flowing water, a small woodshop building directly in front of you and a grass clearing to your right. As you follow that dirt road down the steep hill, before you are three sections of chain-link encased cement pools. To your left is a gravel parking lot and a more modern, tan-colored

building. As you park and step out of the car, the sound of rushing water plummeting through the columns on top of the hill greets you . You have arrived at the Lafayette Trout Hatchery, the most modern of the three Rhode Island Hatcheries that raises trout.

The property, once known as Goose Nest Springs Hatchery, was purchased by Rhode Island in 1921 for the sole purpose of raising trout. Prior to that, the state had been purchasing trout

to stock into Rhode Island lakes and streams from American Fish Culture (now the Carolina Trout Hatchery). The property was ideal since it was located atop the spring and had plenty of cold, flowing water, essential for raising trout. The original hatchery consisted of a cinder block hatch house, a pond and a long line

of raceways that extended through the property. To increase fish production modernized was begun in 1995. Cement raceways replaced the old line of dilapidated wooden raceways and the pond and a new hatch-house were built.

Brown trout.

Currently, three deep water wells pump water up to the black distribution columns which deliver up to 1300 gallons of water per minute to the trout. Since trout are cold water fish that require highly oxygenated water, the deep water wells supply water that is a constant 52 degrees Fahrenheit all year long. The water flowing through the raceways never freezes and fish are kept and fed outdoors year round. The hatchery is run on a gravity-fed, flow-thru system where gravity forces the water to travel through the hatchery by simply flowing down hill. Settling ponds in the last two raceways rid the wa-

ter of fish waste as the water flows into a long stream at the end of the hatchery. These settling ponds are regularly pumped out to reduce the amount of nutrients that are intro-

duced into the environment downstream. The gravity fed system is a low cost, less labor intensive system which allows the trout the proper water quality to thrive and grow. Since the younger trout need the freshest water in order to grow quickly, the water flows first to the

> hatch-house and fry lines. Then the water flows into the production line where the biggest fish in the hatchery are kept. Lafayette Trout Hatchery's new hatch house is where all the Rhode Island trout begin their lives. They are then given to the other hatcheries in the state where they are grown to a size suitable for stocking. The hatch house contains a large incubator system and numerous fiberglass tanks. This is where

the eggs are hatched out to fry and held until they are large enough to be kept in the outdoor raceways. Since bigger fish have a better chance for survival both in the wild and in the hatchery, the young fry are fed constantly throughout the day with the use of automatic feeders. When the

fish reach about four inches in length, they are able to thrive and grow in the cement raceways outside.

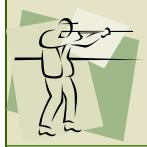
The trout hatchery raises three different species of trout: brook, rainbow, and brown. It takes an average of 18 months to raise trout from egg to a one pound adult. These fish are raised solely for the purpose of stocking our ponds, streams, and rivers for public fishing. Eighty thousand pounds of trout are produced yearly at Lafayette Hatchery with over 120,000 fish being stocked throughout Rhode Island during the fishing season. For more information pertaining to opening day of fishing as well as the ponds and streams that are stocked in Rhode Island, please refer to the 2010 Rhode Island Freshwater Fishing Abstract.



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#### Great Swamp Shooting Range 2010 Update by Karen Unsworth

The Great Swamp Shooting range is located within the Great Swamp Management Area at 277 Great Neck Road in West Kingston, (401)789-0281. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has instituted some changes to the operating schedule and permitting process for range users. The range will be open 7 days per week from April 1st thru September 30th. Weekday shooting hours will be 9:30 AM to 4 PM. Weekend shooting hours will be 8:30 AM to 5 PM.



Hours of operation may vary due to staffing, training activities, maintenance requirements and/or environmental conditions.

The range is available to the public free of charge but you must obtain a permit prior to use. Permit applications are now accepted by mail only from February 1st thru Sep-

tember 20<sup>th</sup> each year. Applicants who meet the minimum requirements will be notified by mail that they qualify to attend a range safety briefing. Safety briefings will be held at the range on a regular basis throughout the season and are mandatory for all range users regardless of their previous status. After attending a safety briefing a permit will be issued by the shooting range attendant and will be valid for five years. Please note that the range safety briefing is not a substitute for firearms safety training, but rather is intended to prepare shooters to safely and efficiently use the Great Swamp Range. Topics will include range layout and procedures, range safety rules and regulations, firing line commands and emergency procedures.

Please review the target range regulations at www.dem.ri.gov for a full description of user requirements. Permit applications are also available online.

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#### We've Moved! Well, some of us anyway!

A portion of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's administrative office has been relocated from the Oliver Stedman Government Center in Wakefield to the Division of Forest Environment's Headquarters at 1037 Hartford Pike in North Scituate. Tenant needs and recent renovations to the Stedman Government Center offices, which are managed by the Department of Administration, necessitated the relocation.

The business administrative staff for the freshwater fisheries and wildlife sections of the Division of Fish and Wildlife can be reached in North Scituate at 647-3367. The hunter education and safety program, which was also located at Government Center in Wakefield, has been temporarily relocated to DEM's coastal fisheries laboratory at 1231 Succotash Road in Jerusalem (783-2304), until such time that accommodations can be made at DEM Great Swamp Field Headquarters in West Kingston. All permits issued by the Division, other than those pertaining to marine fisheries, and the hand gun safety program are now

available at the Great Swamp Field Headquarters located at 277 Great Neck Road in West Kingston (789-7481). Hand gun safety testing hours are from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Alternative locations are available, call (789-0281) to learn of a location near you.

The Aquatic Resource Education Coordinator has relocated to the Arcadia Warmwater Research Hatchery at 1 Summit Road in Hope Valley, RI, 539-7333.

The marine fisheries section of the Division will con-

tinue to operate out of the marine program headquarters at Ft. Wetherill in Jamestown. Any questions or issues pertaining to marine fisheries should be directed to the marine program at Fort Wetherill at 423-1920.

Callers to the Government Center office in Wakefield will be advised of the address and telephone changes via a telephone recording. A staff list, telephone numbers and directions to the new locations are posted on the DEM website, www.dem.ri.gov, under Offices and Divisions on the left side of the homepage.

## Calendar April—June 2010

**April 10 Opening Day for Trout Season!** For more information see page 1.

**April 24-25 Paraplegic Turkey Season.** For more information call the Division at (401) 789-0281.

**April 24-25 Junior Turkey Season.** For more information contact the Division at (401) 789-0281.

April 29 Spring Gobbler Season. For more information contact the Division at (401) 789-0281. For permit questions, call the

Office of Boat Registration and Licensing at (401) 222-3576.

May 8 Free Fishing Event at Silver Spring
Fishing Area and Shady Lea Picnic Area in
North Kingstown. For more information
see page 8.

**May 8 and 9 Free Fishing Days—**For more information see page 8.

May 23rd Great Outdoors Pursuit Kick-off — Lincoln Woods call (401) 222-2632 for more information.



Play the Rhode Island Great Outdoors Pursuit!

Decipher clues, visit beautiful State parks and forests, join in fun activities, and win great prizes!



Don't miss out—sign up TODAY! Visit www.riparks.com or call (401) 222-2632



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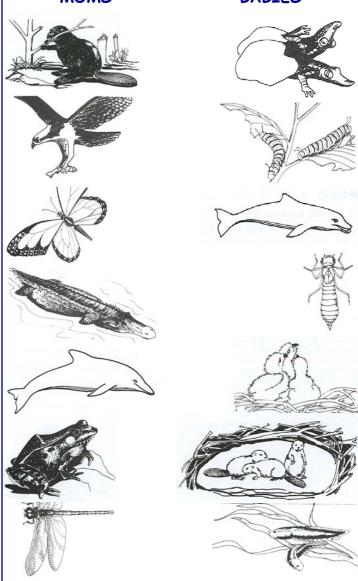
## Kids Corner! Presented by the Aquatic Resource Education Program

#### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY from the Kid's Corner!

Mother's Day is coming soon! As we begin to honor our mothers and appreciate all they have done for us, let us take a look at some of the aquatic animals that we encounter. While some adult animals, like humans, have offspring that resemble their parents, other animals like frogs and insects have young that do not look like their mom and dad at all. These animals have to go through many stages to look like their mothers. Help each of the young animals below find their mothers. Draw a line from Mom To Baby:

#### MOMS

#### **BABIES**



Images from Project WILD Aquatic 2005 edition. Permission obtained from Council for Environmental Education: 5555 Morningside Drive, Suite 212, Houston, TX, 77005, (713)520-1936.

### Take Your Mom Fishing!



Mother's Day is May 9, 2010 and so is the free fishing weekend. So take your mom, and the rest of the family too, and celebrate the day by bringing your mom to a public fishing area without having to purchase a fishing license or trout stamp!

Moms and babies sometimes have different names. Can you match the mom names to the baby names?



Answer key: Clam—larva; Duck - duckling; Eel - elver; Fish - fry; Goose - gosling; Platy-Jellyfish—ephyna; Otter—whelp; Owl - owlet; Oyster—spat; Penguin - fledgling; Platypus - puggle; Seal - pup; Toad- tadpole; Turtle - hatchling; Sea urchin - pluteus.

#### Free Fishing Days, May 8th & 9th; Golden Trout Contest by Christine Dudley

Rhode Island's free fishing weekend will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, which gives anglers the opportunity to fish all public waters in the state for the entire weekend without a freshwater fishing license or trout stamp. To commemorate this weekend, RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife's trout hatcheries and the Aquatic Resource Education program (ARE), are hosting the first annual Free Fishing Event on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10 AM – 4 PM. This year, Silver Spring Fish-

ing Area and Shady Lea Picnic Area in North Kingstown will be the locations of an event open to the public. No freshwater fishing license or Trout Stamp is required; fishing rods and bait will be provided. There will be special gifts for children. Division staff and local fishing organization members will be on hand to assist families in catching fish.

In addition, anglers will have the chance to catch a Golden



Rainbow trout, stocked only at Silver Spring Lake for this special event. Golden Rainbow trout are new to Rhode Island this year. In cooperation with the University of Rhode Island, this special strain of rainbow trout was raised at the Lafayette Trout Hatchery in North Kingstown and is being provided for this event. A prize will be given to those anglers who catch a golden trout on Free Fishing Weekend and throughout the season.

Here is your chance to introduce yourself and your family to the sport of freshwater fishing without any cost to you! Just pack up your lunch and join us in North Kingstown on May 8th...and catch a golden trout! For more information on Free Fishing Weekend, please contact the ARE Program Coordinator, Kim Sullivan, at 401-539-7333 or kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov.

This program receives Federal funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin or ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in this program, activity, or facility operated by this recipient of Federal assistance should write to:

The Office for Equal Opportunity, U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D. C. 20240



#### Wild Rhode Island

A Quarterly Publication from the Division of Fish and Wildlife

Great Swamp Field Headquarters 277 Great Neck Road West Kingston, RI 02892 (401) 789-0281 RI Relay 711

# Attention! Fluorescent Orange Requirements

All users of State Management Areas are required to wear 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange (generally, a baseball hat) from the last Thursday in April to the last day in May. TO:

