



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

## Let's Go Fishing — Colt State Park Fishing Pier Reopens! *by Andres Aveledo*

The reconstruction and expansion of the fishing pier at Colt State Park in Bristol has been completed. The project involved the replacement of the existing pier's decking and railings and the construction of an ADA accessible, 66 foot T-shaped extension. The extension provides disabled anglers with four fishing stations featuring specially designed slanted railings lowered to a height of 34 inches. The project also included the reconstruction and relocation of the timber float and piles that anchor the float to the eastern side of the existing T-pier.



Photo: A. Aveledo

ter fishing grounds and more area to fish from at this beautiful and popular location

The pier improvements were constructed by Cardi Corporation of Warwick, RI. On-site work began August 1<sup>st</sup> and was completed by mid-November. The pier is constructed out of Greenheart timber piles and pressure treated Southern Yellow Pine framing, decking, and railings. The floating dock will be installed this spring and removed

The newly improved fishing pier will provide access to bet-

for winter storage each subsequent year.

Funding for the \$387,500 project was provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Sportfish Restoration Program (\$290,625) and the RI Capital Development Fund (\$96,875).

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## Community Liaison on Board for 2015 Revision to RI Wildlife Action Plan (RIWAP) *by Amanda Freitas*

Beginning in 1937 with the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (better known as the Pittman-Robertson Act for its Congressional sponsors) and followed by the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Act, Congress began to identify a need to protect wildlife species that were suffering from overhunting and habitat degradation. These Acts and their subsequent amendments established excise taxes on certain hunting and fishing equipment. Revenue from these taxes is reallocated to the states to fund research, management, education, and other activities related to fish and wildlife conservation. Since hunters and fisherman bear the financial burden of this program through taxes on their equipment, the funds generated are primarily focused toward

Black-throated Blue Warbler



Photo: J. Osenkowski

the conservation of game species (wild harvested animals).

While these laws have achieved a great deal since their enactment, conservation of *non-game* species remained unfunded for many years, and **wildlife** Continued on page 4

### 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.



**Janet Coit, Director**  
Rhode Island Department of  
Environmental Management

**Larry Mouradjian,**  
Associate Director,  
Bureau of Natural Resources

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**Publisher:** Kimberly Sullivan,  
Principal Fisheries Biologist,  
ARE Coordinator

**Editor:** Veronica Masson,  
Federal Aid Coordinator

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## Fish Opening Day – April 12, 2014!

Get your rods and reels ready because Opening Day for trout season is fast approaching! This year the trout fishing season begins on April 12!

The excitement is building as the Division of Fish and Wildlife begins to stock trout for the big day! Over 80,000 fish will be stocked in the upcoming weeks at over 100 locations. Three of the Division's four hatcheries—Lafayette, Carolina and Perryville raise trout from eggs to adulthood to stock into local ponds, streams, rivers and lakes. The type of trout that are raised in the state's hatcheries include brook, rainbow and brown trout. The fish are beautiful and very exciting to catch.

A fishing license is required by anyone age 15 or older wishing to catch or take fish in any freshwater stream or pond. If you are fishing for trout, you will also need to purchase a Trout Conservation Stamp. You can purchase a license and trout stamp at any city or town clerk's office or from authorized agents around the state including bait and tackle shops and some department stores.

When you purchase a fishing license,



Photo: USFWS

you're helping to protect, preserve and enhance the sport of fishing for today and for generations to come. License fees help pay for fishery and hatchery management, fishing access property, habitat development and protection, fishing and conservation education, maps and other publications, and many other valuable programs.

More information may be found on the our website at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/index.htm> or by calling (401) 789-0281.

  
**Free Fishing Weekend**  
**May 3 & 4, 2014**  
 Presented by:

**RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife**

No License? No Trout Stamp? No problem. For one weekend a year RI Division of Fish and Wildlife provides you and your family with a chance to try out fishing without purchasing a fishing license or trout stamp\*. And that weekend is May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. So grab your rod and stop at any of our many public ponds and lakes throughout Rhode Island!

\*Please Note: Creel limits still apply

## 2nd Annual Collaborative Scientific Tautog Fishing Event a Great Success! *by K. Smith*

On a cold and windy Veterans' Day morning, five charter boats carrying scientists and Narragansett families braved the weather and left the Port of Galilee looking to catch tautog. They steamed through the Harbor of Refuge, took the turn past Point Judith Lighthouse and continued heading north. In no time, the vessels stopped several hundred yards off of Scarborough Beach and anchored above scattered rock piles. Green crabs were prepped, put on hooks and the hunt was on! Using three to five ounce sinkers, the bait plummeted to the bottom and disappeared out of sight. The strong west winds caused the vessels to swing back and forth, making it difficult to keep the bait on the bottom, but surprisingly the first bite occurred almost instantly. The captains apparently knew exactly where to go, as fish started being caught left and right, in a matter of minutes. After several hours of fishing and buckets full of fish, the vessels pulled anchor and returned to port. The families had fresh fish for dinner; the scientists had samples to study; and everyone left with a smile and cold fingers.

This was the second year in a row that the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), in conjunction with the RI Party and Charter Boat Association and the Narragansett Department of Parks and Recreation, helped turn a scientific fish monitoring survey into a recreational fishing experience for Narragansett families.

The popular event began last year as a pilot program when Dan Costa, port manager in DEM's Division of Coastal Resources, suggested that DEM's annual tautog collection would provide the perfect venue for a collaborative charitable event with the RI Party and Charter Boat Association. Every year, the Division of Fish & Wildlife is required to collect 200 samples of tautog in a diverse range of sizes for analysis in its scientific monitoring program. The samples collected are measured and aged, and the resulting data are used in the age structured stock assessment for that species.

Several partners worked together last year to bring the idea to fruition, including supervising marine biologist Jason McNamee of DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife, John Rainone of the RI Party and Charter Boat Association, and Steven Wright and Tom Tessitore of the Narragansett Department of Parks and Recreation. One lucky family from the Narragansett Parks and Recreation assistance program was chosen to participate in a free tautog fishing trip aboard Captain John Rainone's "L'il Toot" charter boat on the day after Thanksgiving. The family had an opportunity to enjoy a fun day of recreational fishing for tautog, and also helped collect fish samples for DEM's monitoring program. Nicole Lengyel, a principal marine biologist in the Division of Fish and Wildlife, was onboard the vessel to coordinate the scientific collection.

"In addition to the scientific benefits, this special project is providing several Narragansett families with an opportunity to take part in a fun-filled day of fishing on a charter vessel and to bring home some freshly-caught fish," said DEM Director Janet Coit. "All in all, this collaborative project is providing a boost to our science and a deepened appreciation for the

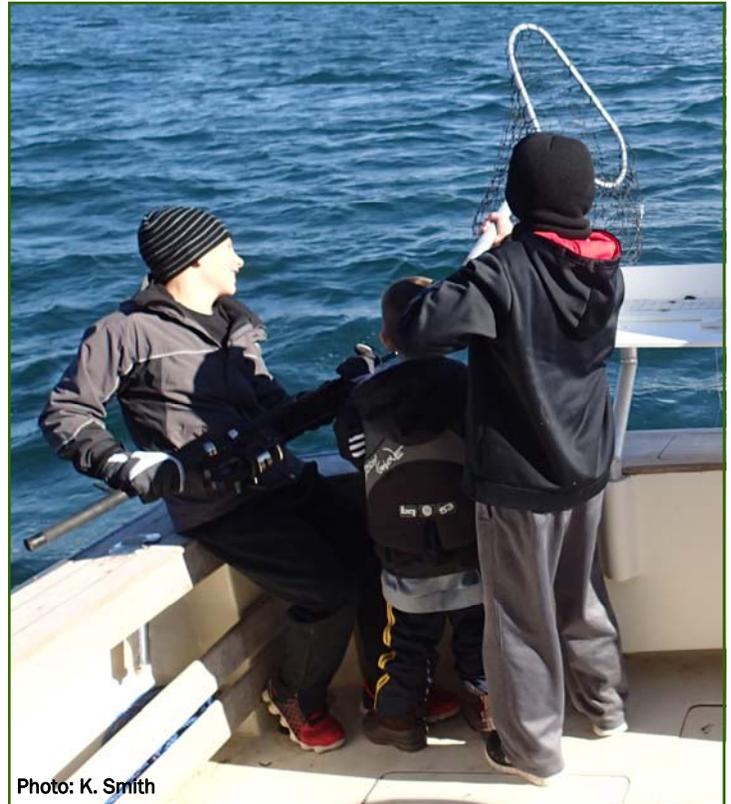


Photo: K. Smith

variety of marine life in our seas for the participating families."

Steve Wright, director of the Narragansett Parks and Recreation Department said, "This annual program provides a unique opportunity for deserving families from Narragansett to go fishing on a local charter boat and at the same time help DEM collect important scientific data. The Narragansett Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to partner with DEM and the RI Party and Charter Boat Association to offer this opportunity to local families."

This program would not have been possible without the generous contributions of the RI Party and Charter Boat Association and its members, who donated their time and talents to help local families participate in this collaborative event.

Due to the success of last year's event, the program was expanded this year. Five vessels from the RI Party and Charter Boat Association, all of which are docked in the Port of Galilee, participated in the event and accommodated several Narragansett families. They include charter boats "Priority Too," operated by Captain Rick Bellavance; "Sea Devil," operated by Captain Kelly Smith; "L'il Toot," operated by Captain John Rainone; "Bare Bones," operated by Captain Steven Anderson; and "Carol J," operated by Captain Paul Johnson.

Several DEM staff members volunteered their time for the event, including Dan Costa, Jason McNamee, Nicole Lengyel, Kevin Smith, and Chris Deacutis. We hope to hold this event again next year. For more information about this program please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries Section at (401)423-1920.

Community Liaison on Board *by Amanda Freitas**continued from page 1****habitat across the country continues to be developed and degraded.***

In 2000, recognizing the value of non-game species to the landscape, Congress created the **State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Program** to support conservation of declining fish and wildlife species not covered by previous legislation. To ensure that states would use their funding effectively, Congress mandated that each state submit a Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) and update that plan no less than every ten years in order to be eligible for program funding.

The **Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan (RIWAP)** was first published in 2005 and will be updated in 2015. RIWAP is a comprehensive, long-range plan that assesses the health of the state's wildlife and habitats, identifies the threats they face, and outlines actions to help our rarest species recover and keep common species common. As our communities grow, ***RIWAP can serve as a blueprint to help us fulfill our responsibility to conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations.***

There are eight Congressionally required elements in the Wildlife Action Plan (shown in the graphic below). In preparation for the 2015 RIWAP update, approximately 50 scientific experts have worked to develop the first four elements of the plan (species, habitats, threats, and actions).



Wood frog

Photo: C. Raithel

Additionally, over 125 technical experts and key conservation stakeholders have reviewed these findings and weighed in on these discussions. The complete list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Rhode Island will be available on DEM's website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/swap15.htm>. Additional workshops will be conducted over the winter and spring to finalize this work and prepare to incorporate it into the **2015 RI Wildlife Action Plan**, which DEM expects will be available for public review in the fall of 2014. RIWAP provides a wealth of important information related to wildlife in Rhode Island.

It is a substantial undertaking involving a lot of technical information and sometimes difficult decision-making. In order to make the plan more accessible to all of its intended audiences, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Rhode Island Natural History Survey (RINHS), and University of Rhode Island (URI) began collaborating with DEM on a project to promote participation by municipalities and other community interests in the development and implementation of the 2015 RIWAP. As part of this collaboration, RINHS created a position for a RIWAP Community Liaison on its staff.

Part of my charge as the new **RIWAP Community Liaison** is to make sure that the

*continued on next page*

## Pheasants Forever RI Invites Women to Get Outdoors *by Karen Unsworth*

The Rhode Island Chapter of *Pheasants Forever* will host “*Chicks in the Outdoors*,” an outdoor skills workshop at the Wallum Lake Rod & Gun Club in Harrisville, RI on June 21 and 22. This workshop caters to women who are interested in experiencing a relaxing, fun-filled day in the outdoors while learning new skills and meeting new friends. *Pheasants Forever* and its quail division, Quail Forever, empower [county and local chapters](#) with the responsibility to determine how 100% of their locally-raised conservation funds will be spent - the only national conservation organization that operates through this truly grassroots structure. As a result, chapter volunteers are able to see the fruits of their efforts locally, while belonging to a larger national organization with a voice on federal and state conservation policy.

This workshop will introduce women ages 13 and up to many outdoors activities including archery, deer hunting 101, tree stand safety, falconry, fly fishing & tying, trapping, fur processing, taxidermy, shotguns, pistols and rifles. For those with somewhat tamer tastes there is



Photos: J. Pena



beekeeping, backyard chickens, dutch oven cooking, wilderness cooking, canning, geocaching, orienteering, walk in the woods, goats milk soaps and candles, natural beauty products and dream catchers.

All skill levels are welcome to attend. The tuition fee of \$80 (\$40 ages 13-17) includes your choice of four classes, meals, supplies, instruction, overnight camping and a one year membership to *Pheasants Forever*. The registration form and course descriptions are available on the

DEM website. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so register early! For more information or to volunteer to assist, please contact Jessica Pena, women’s event coordinator at (561)503-0038 or [turkeychicks@hotmail.com](mailto:turkeychicks@hotmail.com). For information about the *Pheasants Forever* RI Chapter, contact Chapter President Nick Grasso at (401)419-3853. This event is co-sponsored by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the RI Department of Environmental Management.

## Community Liaison on Board *by Amanda Freitas*

*continued from previous page*

2015 revision incorporates products that municipalities, land trusts, and other individuals or groups interested in conservation can use to get conservation measures implemented. This may include a series of brochures, maps, or other publications, as well as meetings and workshops. In fulfilling this task, I will be talking with a broad array of individuals who play a role in conservation in Rhode Island in order to find out how best to serve them.

As a native Rhode Islander, I am thrilled to be back in my home state and to have this opportunity to help make Rhode Island a more hospitable place for the plants and animals that contribute so much to our quality of life! Truly, the local wildlife and natural areas on which they depend *are a huge part of what makes a place home*, and here in Rhode Island we are very fortunate to have such a wealth of diversity packed into our small state.



Photo: C. Raithel

Further, **wildlife conservation has wide ranging benefits for us and for future generations, including protection of the habitats on which these species rely and the safeguarding of our air, water, well-being, and natural heritage.**

To that end, I want to help Rhode Islanders realize the immense treasure with which we’ve all been entrusted as well as the extent to which wildlife conservation impacts our own welfare. Then I want

to help them find ways, big and small, to get common sense conservation on the ground.

You can find more information about the 2015 RIWAP or provide comments on DEM’s website [www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/swap15.htm](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/swap15.htm). You can also feel free to contact me at [amanda.freitas@dem.ri.gov](mailto:amanda.freitas@dem.ri.gov) to find out more about wildlife conservation in Rhode Island and what you can do to help!

## A Tale of Two Plants by Chris Raithel



Photos: C. Raithel



**“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” . . .**

Those who were forced to read Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* in high school English Lit class may remember the iconic opening line of the novel (and perhaps little else). However, this quotation may be an appropriate way to introduce how divergent fortunes can be produced by similar circumstances. By the time this article is printed, it will have been nearly two years removed from Superstorm *Sandy*, which was the most dramatic weather event to affect the Rhode Island coastline in recent memory. It will take years to repair much of the damage to coastal buildings along the Rhode Island shore, and we got off easy compared with states to our south. So, although *Sandy* could be considered the worst of times for shorefront property, it was the best of times for some species, especially certain plants that depend on hurricanes for their persistence.

Sea-beach Knotweed (*Polygonum glaucum*) is a plant that doesn't like a lot of company. Featuring a prostrate growth aspect and small downy-white leaves, Sea-beach Knotweed is a pretty little species that grows in scarified over-wash areas and below the face of dunes along outer beaches of the Atlantic Coast. It is more common on Long Island and Cape Cod than in Rhode Island, but there have been a handful of recent sites in our state. Prior to *Sandy*, Sea-beach Knotweed had not been seen for several years at former strongholds on Block Island and Napatree Point, and there was even speculation that it no longer occurred in the state. Apparently, the plant was just laying low and waiting to be bludgeoned by an onrushing hurricane, because during the summer of 2013 it was relocated at two sites on Block Island and also at Napatree Point. At Napatree, it re-appeared as several large drifts of plants that were, not surprisingly, in areas where the storm surge topped the dunes. Sea-beach Knotweed is an annual, so the seeds were present at the sites and just dormant or rode in on the hurricane



surge from parts unknown and re-asserted their hegemony, however, temporary, on the wave whipped sands.

The other part of this story involves a plant with an even more interesting local history. Cacti are iconic plants usually associated with desert environments, but there is one species native to the Northeastern United States; the Eastern Prickly Pear (*Opuntia humifusa*). Prickly Pear, also

known by the intriguing name Devil's Tongue, has a broad distribution throughout much of eastern North America from Montana to the Atlantic Seaboard. Rick Enser already summarized the historical status of this species in Rhode Island (Rhode Island Naturalist Vol. 11, Number 1, May 2004), but a brief recap may be useful. When the Natural Heritage Program began in 1979, the presence of this species in Rhode Island was considered hypothetical, although there was one historical specimen (1890 from Kingston). In the 1980's, a lepidopterist captured a Cactus Borer Moth on Block Island and so the logic went that, if the moth was present, the food plant must be also. This moth produced a spate of renewed searching for the cactus on Block Island, without success. Finally, about 10 years ago, a population of *Opuntia* was found on Prudence Island. Prickly Pear is often used in local landscaping, but the Prudence Island was a natural habitat in a remote location and Enser judged this population to be of natural origin.

After *Sandy*, the wrack line at Napatree Point was littered with pieces of Prickly Pear that had washed up. This material was probably washed to Rhode Island by the prevailing wind and waves from *Sandy*; the most likely source is Long Island, a trip of several miles. There were so many cactus pads on the beach that it was perhaps inevitable that some became rooted, and there is now a fledgling *Opuntia* population at Napatree Point. That's a pretty good trick that the cactus pulled off - wait around to get pummeled by a storm, let a bunch of your body parts snap off and float away with the tide, and hope they find a home.

## No, It's Not A Moccasin *by Chris Raithel*

The timing if this article may seem a little odd, coming as it does during the late winter period. However, sooner or later (if the Earth keeps spinning) winter will turn to spring and then the rummaging for last year's bathing suits and sunscreen will begin. Before long we'll be out plying the state's waters in a variety of recreational activities. Those out enjoying the freshwater habitats of Rhode Island may then encounter one of our most impressive yet maligned species – the Watersnake. North American Watersnakes (genus *Nerodia*) include 10 species and numerous subspecies that are found primarily in the southern United States. Of these, only the Northern Watersnake (*Nerodia sipedon*) occurs in New England.

Watersnakes are among the largest serpents found in Rhode Island, with a large individual reaching 30" in total length. For a local snake, they are thick and chunky, with large heads and relatively short tails. The adults are pretty nondescript when viewed from above, with a series of cross bands spanning a grayish background color. As watersnakes age, the dorsal patterning becomes even darker so that the snakes appear entirely muddy brown in color. From beneath, however, it is a different story, because Northern Watersnakes have beautiful bellies that are creamy white with a series of red half-moon markings. This difference is so striking that an observer could scarcely believe that the top and bottom of a watersnake belonged to the same animal. Northern Watersnakes are found throughout the Rhode Island mainland and also on Block Island, but watersnakes in that location are very different than mainland forms. The ancestry of the Block Island Watersnakes has not been researched so far, but their unique patterning (or rather, lack of patterning) suggests a long period of isolation following the recession of the last glaciation.

Watersnakes are impressive animals that produce a lot of consternation among the Rhode Island citizenry because they tend to occur at beaches, dams, and other shoreline structures that are frequented by bathers and anglers. Watersnakes are territorial and can be curious creatures – they have been known to approach swimmers that enter their territory. Because of their size, banded pattern and large head, watersnakes are mistakenly referred to as moccasins and many are killed each year under the false assumption that they are dangerous. But not to worry – don't reach for the baseball bat or garden hoe! The venomous water moccasin (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) of the southern United States occurs no further north than Virginia. Our water serpents are completely harmless if left alone and are, in my humble opinion, exciting and beautiful components of our natural world.

N. Watersnake, Arcadia



N. Watersnake, Block Island



*Nerodia* ventral view



Photos C. Raithel

## Fish Recipes

### Fish with Onion & Pepper Rings



- 1½ - 2 lbs. fish fillets (trout)
- 1 lemon (grate, peel & save juice)
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 1 large onion, sliced into rings
- 1 bell pepper (seeded & sliced into rings)
- ¼ teaspoon salt (optional)
- ½ teaspoon black pepper (optional)

½ cup white wine or chicken broth

Place raw fish in a single layer on a platter; sprinkle with lemon juice and grating and set aside. In a skillet, melt butter and sauté onion and pepper rings until tender on medium—low heat. Add garlic and cook 1 minute more; do not over brown. Remove from pan with a slotted spoon, raise temperature and fry fish for 10 minutes on each side or until browned and flaky. Add more butter if needed. Sprinkle with salt and pepper if desired. When the fish is done, remove to a heated platter. Add peppers and onion back to pan and pour wine or chicken broth into skillet. Heat for about 2 minutes and scrape the pan with a wooden spoon to incorporate pan drippings into sauce. Pour the pepper and onion mixture over the fish and serve with rice. Serves 4.



### Striped Bass Chowder



- 1 lb. thick bass (cut into 1 inch pieces)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2½ - 3 cups whole milk
- 4 medium white potatoes, peeled & cubed
- 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
- Salt & freshly ground pepper to taste

Place cubed potatoes in a large saucepan, cover with water and simmer 10-12 minutes or until a fork can pierce them. Drain and set aside. In a deep stew pot, sauté onions in butter until translucent. Add fish pieces to pot with onions and add water to just cover the fish. Boil gently until the fish turns white. Do not drain. Add potatoes and milk; salt and pepper to taste. Heat thoroughly, cool and refrigerate overnight. Reheat the next day. If the chowder is made in the morning and refrigerated after cooling, it may be reheated for dinner that evening. Serves 4 to 6.

## CATCH A GOLDEN TROUT!

**RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife will be stocking four ponds across the state with golden rainbow trout during the Free Fishing Weekend May 3rd and 4th, 2014. Catch a golden trout in any of the following ponds and receive a special pin!**

**The following ponds will be stocked:  
Brickyard Pond - Barrington  
Peck Pond - Burrillville  
Carolina Trout Pond - Richmond  
Silver Spring Lake - North Kingstown**

To receive a pin, take a picture with your golden trout and send it to [kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov) along with your mailing address. For more information, contact Kimberly Sullivan at 401-539-0037.

## Investigating Artificial Reefs in Narragansett Bay by Nicole Lengyel

In 2013, the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) began a five-year artificial reef project to investigate the benefits of artificial reefs in RI. The project is 75% funded through Sportfish Restoration (SFR) funds, and 25% funded by TNC and funds from the RI saltwater recreational fishing license. The project will use concrete reef balls to create three 0.25 acre experimental artificial reefs in Narragansett Bay.

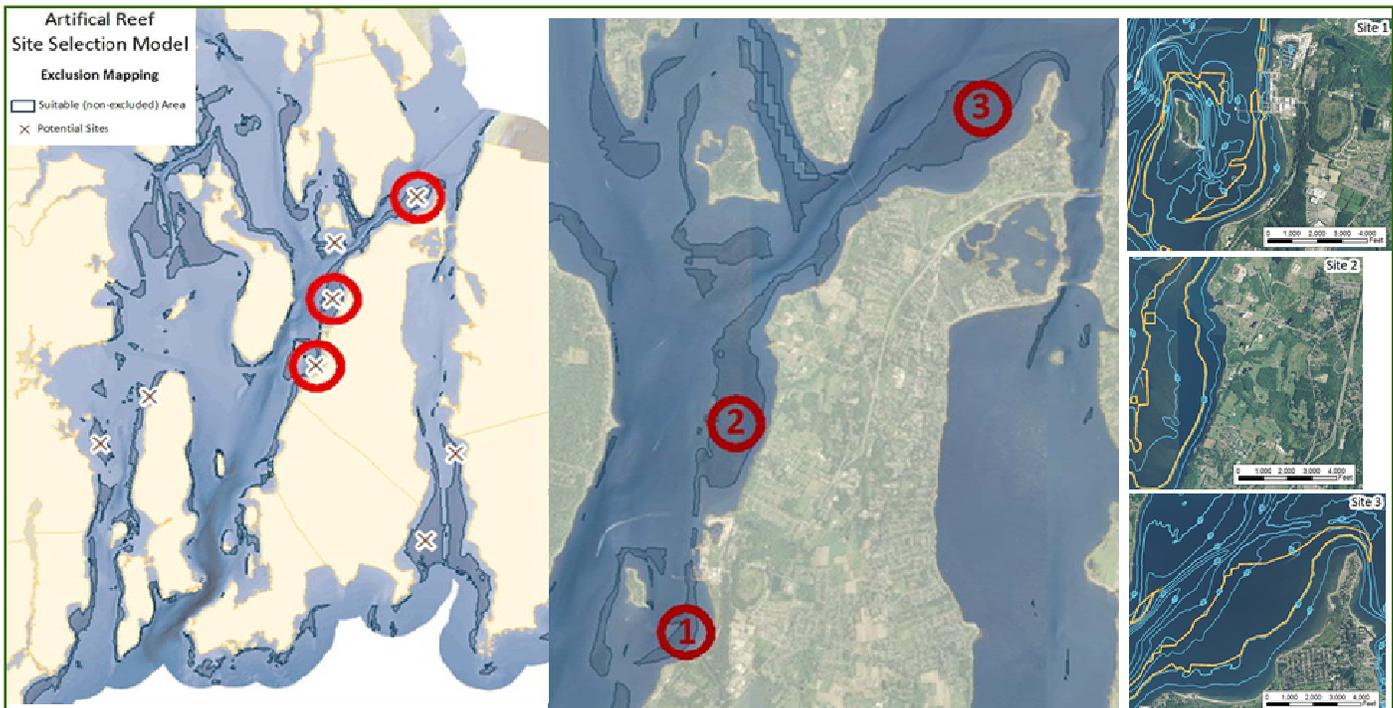
A TNC site selection model was used to map out suitable and non-suitable areas in Narragansett Bay. The data used in the model included depth, sediment type, dissolved oxygen, navigation, submerged aquatic vegetation, and benthic fauna. Additional considerations for site selection included current DEM surveys, mooring fields, and fishing activity. Once three potential locations in the Bay were identified (Figure 1), these locations were presented to stakeholders for their feedback. Four sites at each of the three potential locations were then surveyed in the field for groundtruthing. One of the four sites in each potential location was identified as a primary site and a second site was chosen as an alternative should an unanticipated problem arise with the primary site. Permit applications were submitted to the appropriate agencies in early February and are currently out to public notice. Once permits have been received a multi-year monitoring program will commence that will monitor all three experimental reefs as well as three nearby natural reefs.



Baseline information will be collected prior to construction at each natural and experimental reef site. Following the collection of baseline information, construction of the three experimental reefs will occur followed by a side-scan sonar survey to verify the location, layout and

vertical relief of reef materials. Post-construction monitoring to evaluate whether artificial reefs are increasing abundance and biomass of important sport fish species or merely attracting them from other areas in the Bay will occur over several years. Each year from June through September monitoring will be conducted at each natural and artificial reef. During each dive survey a fish census will be conducted where finfish will be identified and enumerated and live video will be recorded. Fish traps will be used to capture target species for the tag-recapture component of the monitoring. Benthic scrapings will also be collected from reef material to characterize the benthos and monitor succession on the reefs. Recreational anglers will be interviewed to determine the level of fishing activity and thus exploitation rate on the reefs.

At the end of the project period in 2017, researchers will analyze the collected data to determine the benefits of artificial reefs in RI. The data collected from this study will be used to finalize an Artificial Reef Plan for the State of Rhode Island. The plan will not only provide an overview regarding the proper citing and materials to be used in artificial reef construction but will make recommendations for future projects in Narragansett Bay.



**Figure 1.** Artificial reef site selection model output for Narragansett Bay (left), and proposed reef sites in the East Passage and lower Mount Hope Bay (right). Figure courtesy of TNC.

## Salmon in the Classroom Celebrates 10 Years! *by Kimberly Sullivan*

Ten years ago, on a cold January morning, 19 teachers from 14 schools across Rhode Island huddled together in the garage area of the Great Swamp Field Headquarters. Mr. James Carroll from the Connecticut River Salmon Association spoke about Connecticut's successful "salmon in the schools program." The teachers were the first to participate in RI Fish and Wildlife's new Aquatic Resource Education program 'Salmon in the Classroom'. Ten years later, those same 14 schools have been joined by 24 others participating in Rhode Island's Salmon in the Classroom program. And, despite changing curricula and standards, February still means that these Rhode Island middle and high school students are prepping their salmon incubator systems and getting ready for Atlantic salmon eggs.

Brought to Rhode Island by the Connecticut River Salmon Association, 'Salmon in the Classroom' has been an effective and exciting learning tool for Rhode Island schools. 'Salmon in the Classroom' is a multidisciplinary program that combines classroom learning with hands-on field trips to the Wood-Pawcatuck River Watershed, in conjunction with the RI Anadromous Fish Restoration program. The Aquatic Resource Education (ARE) Program trains the teachers in the curriculum and lends each school the equipment necessary to construct an incubator system for the salmon eggs. Once built, each class receives and hatches the Atlantic salmon eggs, raising them to the fry stage to be stocked into the Pawcatuck River Watershed. While the eggs are hatching and developing into fry, the teachers present the class with information including salmon biology and ecology, and the history of Rhode Island's Industrial Revolution. A mandatory stocking field trip is sponsored by the ARE program for each school and students get to perform a series of chemical and biological monitoring techniques at their specified stocking location. By combining a classroom curriculum with outdoor experiential elements, 'Salmon in the Classroom' is an excellent resource for teachers to reach students regardless of abilities or strengths.

In 2007, as an off-shoot of the 'Salmon in the Classroom' program, the ARE program designed a 'Trout in the Classroom' program. Using the same incubation system, schools wishing to use their own watershed as a stocking area, instead of the Wood-Pawcatuck, are given Brook Trout eggs in the fall to raise throughout the year. Many of the same lessons are taught using trout instead of the



Photos: K. Sullivan

salmon; the ultimate goal being that students are able to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to the area where they will be stocking the fish.

Over the past 10 years, schools from as far away as Cumberland, Woonsocket and Smithfield have traveled down to the Wood-Pawcatuck River Watershed to release their salmon fry into its streams and tributaries. Over 20,000 children have participated in the Salmon in the Classroom program and they have stocked over 49,000 Atlantic Salmon fry into the Wood-Pawcatuck River Watershed. The trout program has been implemented in as many as 15 schools at one time and involved over 10,000 school children who stocked over 4,000 brook trout fry across Rhode Island. The 'Salmon in the Classroom' program has had 10 successful years serving the Rhode Island middle and high school students and the ARE program looks forward to many

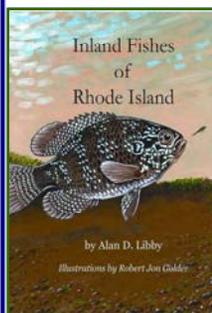
more successful years!

If you or anyone you know be interested in participating in this program, please contact Kimberly Sullivan at [kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov) or 401-539-0037.

### RIDEM DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PRESENTS:

#### INLAND FISHES OF RHODE ISLAND

By Alan Libby with Illustrations by Robert Jon Golder



**ON SALE NOW!** This publication describes more than 70 fishes found in over 377 pond and stream locations throughout Rhode Island. With gorgeous color and black and white scientific illustrations, each fish is addressed with a detailed description and color location map.

Alan D. Libby is a Principal Freshwater Biologist and has worked for the Division of Fish and Wildlife for over 26 years. He has dedicated over 15 years surveying the many lakes and streams throughout Rhode Island.

Paperback: 287 pages, 8" x 10"

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## Kid's Corner! Presented by the Aquatic Resource Education Program



Spring is right around the corner! Fill in the blanks to complete these spring time words!

S     N

    R     E S

F L     W     R S

G     E E N

G R         S

R     I N

F     S H

    I N D

B     R     S

O U     D O     R S



Now take all the highlighted letters and rearrange to answer this question: Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> is opening day of what season?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Golden Trout Released into 4 RI Ponds!

Not only is May 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Free Fishing Weekend, it is also the weekend that Rhode Island anglers will be able to try their hand at catching the exclusive Golden Trout!

Over the past four years, the Division of Fish and Wildlife hatcheries have been raising and stocking a strain of rainbow trout that is golden in color. In prior years, one pond was stocked and a hatcheries Free Fishing event was held. This year, the hatcheries have raised even more of these exclusive trout and will be stocking them into four different ponds across the state: Silver Lake in North Kingstown, Carolina Trout Pond in Richmond, Peck Pond in Burrillville and Brickyard Pond in Barrington. There will not be a central event this year, and the Division hopes that by stocking these fish throughout the state, more Rhode Islanders will have an opportunity to fish for the Golden Trout.

If you catch one of these magnificent creatures, you can also receive a golden trout pin to reward your efforts! Once you catch a golden trout, take a picture and email it to [kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov) or you can print the picture and mail it to RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife / Aquatic Resource Education Program / 1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place, Exeter, RI 02822. For more information please contact Kimberly Sullivan at 401-539-0037 or [kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov).

**Something's Fishy!!!** Hold the page up to a mirror to read the punch lines to the following jokes:

What kind of music should you listen to while fishing?

Ivrtatd gnirtamoƆ



Where do fish keep their money?

I n a r i v e r p o n k i

What kind of fish is useful in freezing weather?

I s t a k e A



Where does a fisherman go to get his hair cut?

I q u a r t e r e d e d e t

Why don't oysters share their pearls?

I d a f f i n e d a s e a c e d



What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?



, b n e d , b n e d , b n e d r u o y b l o d a n n o w I  
, b n e d , b n e d , b n e d , b n e d , b n e d

A fish walks into a bar. The bartender says, "What can I get you?"

" T r o t e W " , g n i q e g , z a l l e r d a f t e d T



Why do fish swim in schools?

b l i e w t r e e y a t t e a c e d

What is the daffynition of a fishing dock?

I n d i t a c o v n o n o a g r u z A

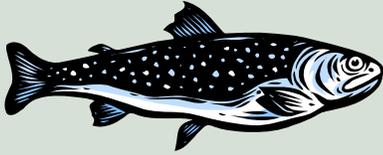


How do you communicate with a fish?

P r o p t i a n e i l a n d n o a s h e r p h o n e

Answers to fill in the blanks: Sun, Flowers, Grass, Fish, Birds, Trees, Green, Rain, Wind, Outdoors. Answer to question: Trout

## Calendar of Events April–June 2014



**April 24 – Open House at Lafayette Trout Hatchery, 10am-2pm.** This is your chance to see the fish, feed them and learn all about Rhode Island's trout hatcheries.

**April 28, May 5 and May 10 – Cinderworm Hatch Workshop.** Learn how to tie a cinderworm fly for two nights and then go fish at the Ninigret Salt Ponds in Charlestown. Program offered through USFWS Kettle Pond Visitor's Center. For more information and to register, contact 364-0125.

**May 3 & 4 – Free Fishing Weekend & the beginning of the 'Catch a Golden Trout' contest.**

**May 10 – Introduction to Freshwater Fly Fishing.** All day workshop that intro-

duces participants to the art of fly fishing. 9am-3pm at Addieville East Farm. Registration is required. For more information, please contact Kimberly Sullivan at 401-539-0037 or kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov.

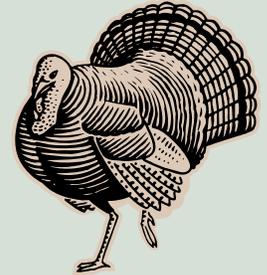


**June 21 & 22—Women In The Outdoors Event—Wallum Lake Rod & Gun Club—See page 6.** All skill levels are welcome to attend. Tuition is \$80 (\$40 ages 13-17) includes choice of four classes, meals, supplies, instruction, overnight camping and a one year membership to Pheasants Forever. Registration form and course descriptions available at: [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov). Pre-registration is re-

quired and space is limited so register early! For more info or to volunteer, contact Jessica Pena at [turkey-chicks@hotmail.com](mailto:turkey-chicks@hotmail.com) or (561)503-0038.

**April 26 & 27 - Special Turkey Season for Junior and Paraplegic Hunters**

**April 30–May 25 - Spring Gobbler Season Statewide** Regular spring hunting for Wild Turkey during these dates. You must have a valid hunting license and a turkey permit. Limited to shotgun gauges 10, 12, 16 and 20 only. See the 2013-2014 RI Hunting and Trapping regulations or Abstract for more details.



### ***Wild Rhode Island***

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