



EarthWatch Rhode Island



Topic: Aquatic Resource Education Programs – Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Programs to be Offered this Fall

Date: September 26, 2008

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Lafayette Fish Hatchery, North Kingstown

Have you ever watched someone fly fish and wonder how they get the long fishing line to swirl so elegantly above their head? Do you want to know how to catch a beautiful 30-pound striper with a homemade fly? If so, here's your chance to learn the art of fly fishing.

For the past 15 years DEM's Aquatic Resource Education (ARE) program has offered Rhode Islanders a chance to learn the basics of fly fishing the state's marine waters. Registrations are now being accepted for the annual "*Introduction to Saltwater Fly Fishing*" workshop on Saturday, October 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The six-hour workshop begins with a short description of the origins of fly fishing, the equipment used, and techniques on how to catch a fish using a fly. After that, highly skilled fly fishing instructors teach the arts of knot tying, fly tying, and fly casting. Participants will then use their newly tied flies and fish at one of Charlestown's premier fishing spots. While the course is directed toward the beginner, it is open to anyone who wants to refresh their fly fishing skills.

This year's class will be held at the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Kettle Pond Visitor Center in Charlestown. All of the equipment and fly tying materials will be provided by the ARE program. Participants need to bring a lunch and a pair of waders. Families with children over the age of 10 are encouraged to attend. A registration fee of \$40 per person is required. Registration materials are available on the DEM website, www.dem.ri.gov under Timely Topics on the homepage; individuals can contact Kimberly Sullivan at 789-0281 or email to Kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov with any questions they may have.

Successful fishers know that it is never too early to start tying flies for the spring fishing season. The ARE program is also offering its annual *Fall Fly Tying Classes* on six consecutive Tuesday evenings from October 21 to December 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the North Kingstown Community Center. Highly skilled fly tying instructors will be on hand to teach a variety of fly tying techniques to create both fresh and salt water flies. The classes are open to beginner,

intermediate and advanced students. All materials and equipment will be provided by the ARE program. A fee of \$6 per class or \$30 for all 6 classes (pre-registered rate only) is required. Contact Kimberly Sullivan with any questions at 7809-0281. The registration materials are available for downloading on the DEM website, www.dem.ri.gov, under Timely Topics on the homepage.

Interviews:

Kimberly Sullivan, Aquatic Resource Education Coordinator, DEM Division of Fish & Wildlife, gave an overview of the ARE program and talk about the two upcoming fly fishing programs beginning in October

Allen Williams, a fly tying instructor, described various flies used in salt water and fresh water, and demonstrate fly tying techniques.