



# EarthWatch Rhode Island



**Topic:** Freshwater Fishing Season Opens Tomorrow: Many Opportunities for Children to Fish at Kids Only Ponds

**Date:** April 10, 2009

**Location:** Frosty Hollow Pond, Arcadia Management Area, Exeter

## Background

The 2009 trout and general freshwater fishing season will begin at 6 a.m. on Saturday, April 11. More than 20,000 anglers are expected to turn out at dawn on opening day to catch some of the 67,000 two year-old hatchery raised brook, brown and rainbow trout that are being stocked by DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife for opening day.

Among the more than 100 ponds and streams throughout Rhode Island being stocked with trout for opening day are six "kids only" ponds that are restricted to those 14 years of age and younger. These ponds are very popular sites for families to visit for a fishing excursion, and provide an opportunity for children to fish where they don't have to compete with adults to reel in a prized trout.

One of the state's most popular kids only ponds in Frosty Hollow Pond in Exeter, located within Arcadia Management Area. The pond, with a dock and grounds that make it accessible to all, is particularly busy on opening day of the freshwater fishing season. Today, DEM Fish & Wildlife staff stocked the pond with 500 brook and rainbow trout. The pond will also be stocked with trout several more times throughout the fishing season.

In addition to Frosty Hollow Pond, there are five other kids only ponds throughout the state, including Lloyd Kenney Pond in Hopkinton, Geneva Brook & Pond in North Providence, Lapham Pond in Burrillville, Seidel's Pond in Cranston, and Silvy's Pond in Cumberland. Cass Pond in Woonsocket and Slater Park Pond in Pawtucket will be open for children only for the first two days of the fishing season. A fishing derby for children in Woonsocket is being held at Cass Pond on Saturday, April 11.

Opening day may provide the perfect opportunity for children to earn a "First Fish Award" certificate from DEM, which is available to those 14 years and under. An application for the award is posted on the DEM website.

Anglers should make an extra effort to take personal safety precautions, such as not standing too close to the shoreline and being aware of their surroundings, so that they can enjoy a safe 'opening day' fishing experience. Boaters are also being urged to take appropriate safety precautions, in light of the seasonal cold water temperatures.

Fishing licenses are not required of any person under 15 years of age. A 2009 fishing license is required for anglers 15 years of age and older wishing to catch fish. A Trout Conservation Stamp is also required of anyone wishing to keep or possess a trout or to fish in a catch-and-release or 'fly-fishing only' area. Fishing licenses and the \$5.50 Trout Conservation Stamp can be obtained at any city or town clerk's office or authorized agent such as bait and tackle shops and Benny's.

A current list of license vendors is available on the DEM website, [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov), by clicking on "Hunting, Fishing, Boating Licenses" from the top left of the homepage, and scrolling down to "Hunting/Fishing Agents." Anglers are encouraged to check the list prior to visiting a vendor to purchase a license. Licenses may also be obtained at DEM's Boat Registration and Licensing Office located at 235 Promenade Street in Providence. As an added convenience, anglers may also purchase their fishing licenses online via [www.ri.gov](http://www.ri.gov), which can also be reached through the freshwater fisheries page on DEM's website.

License fees remain at \$18 for Rhode Island residents and current members of the Armed Forces, \$33 for a combination hunting and fishing license, \$35 for non-residents, and \$16 for a tourist three-consecutive-day license. Anglers over 65 must have a license, which for them is free, but do not need a trout stamp. The license is also free for anyone with a 100 percent disability.

A list of stocked ponds and other information of interest to anglers can be found on DEM's website, [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov), by clicking on "Fish and Wildlife" under "Offices and Divisions," then choosing "Freshwater Fisheries," then "Trout Stocked Waters."

#### **Interviewees:**

**Christine Dudley**, supervising biologist of freshwater fisheries in DEM's Division of Fish & Wildlife, talked about the preparations DEM makes for opening day including raising and stocking brook, brown and rainbow trout; opportunities for children to fish at kids only ponds; "First Fish Award" certificate program; provided an overview of license and trout conservation stamp requirements; and reviewed some of the safety precautions anglers should take to ensure a safe fishing experience.

#### **Visuals:**

DEM Fish & Wildlife truck carrying trout  
Fisheries staff stocking the pond  
"First Fish Award" certificate