

Roundtable News



Rediscover Rhode Island

With high gas prices, many Southern New England families may be vacationing closer to home this summer and it's a good time to re-discover some of Rhode Island's natural resource areas. The 3,100-acre Burlingame State Park and Campground in Charlestown Rhode Island, the largest campground run by DEM, is a wonderful place to start. Burlingame is home to a total of 755 campsites, 11 cabins and one yurt. Families can fish, swim, picnic, boat, bike and hike.

At \$14/day for residents and \$20/day for non-residents, camping at Burlingame is wallet friendly as well. No reservations are required for campsites, but the campground fills fast on good weather weekends. It is strongly recommended you check-in Thursday evening. Reservations are required for cabins and the yurt and fees are somewhat higher. The campground is open through October.

The exceptionally clean and clear waters of the 1,000-acre Watchaug Pond are ideal for canoeing and kayaking as well as fresh water fishing. Twenty canoes are available for rent on a first come first serve basis for \$30 a day. There is a freshwater beach with a sandy bottom for swimming. The camp store has everything needed for camping along with a large selection of souvenirs. The Park



One of the eleven cabins at Burlingame Campground.

includes a playground and a recreation room with video games and pool tables to help keep children entertained. Facilities include restrooms, showers, fireplaces, picnic tables, and running water.

Burlingame State Park also serves as a wonderful jumping off point to a couple of the state's saltwater beaches. Misquamicut State Beach in Westerly with its nearby attractions and East Beach in Charlestown are only 10 minutes away.

Named in honor of Edwin A.

Burlingame, chairman of the former

Metropolitan Park Commission during the 1930's, the park, which opened in 1934, has a long and colorful history. It was within the borders of Burlingame that the first Civilian Conversation Corps camp in the state of Rhode Island was erected. During World War II military units were stationed here serving on patrol along Rhode Island's coast. The site at one point also served as a prisoner of war camp. For more information, visit DEM's web site: www.riparks.com.

Water Quality Restoration Moves Forward In the Pawcatuck and Statewide

While the state has made significant progress in improving water quality in the last decade, with water quality restoration plans completed for 42 waterbodies and another 25 underway, there are still 161 waterbodies that don't meet water quality standards for fishing, swimming and/or human consumption. These include the Blackstone River, Woonasquatucket River, Mt. Hope Bay, Pt. Judith Pond and many of the state's freshwater ponds.

The Department of Environmental Management develops water quality restoration plans, also known as Total Maximum Daily Loads or TMDL's, for water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. A TMDL provides the technical basis for abatement actions in restoration plans based on the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. It takes DEM and local communities and partners about two years of fieldwork and analysis to find the pollution sources and figure out how to fix them.

DEM is working with agencies in Rhode Island and Connecticut, EPA and the FDA to characterize bacteria problems in the Pawcatuck River between Westerly, RI and Stonington, CT that prevent or restrict shellfish harvesting in most of the river, which drains into Little Narragansett Bay near Watch Hill, and may prevent safe swimming under certain conditions.



DEM's Heidi Travers taking a water sample along the Pawcatuck River in Westerly.

Officials took water quality samples from fifteen locations in over forty streams and storm water pipes along the Rhode Island and Connecticut Shorelines that had discharges the time of the study. Local and state officials in both states will conduct follow-up at about a half-dozen of these pipes.

The pollution problems and solutions differ from location to location. The main pollutants impairing waters of the state are nutrients, (nitrogen and phosphorus), pathogens (bacteria) and toxics from sources including sewer and septic systems and stormwater runoff, especially where construction is underway, fertilizers are being used, or animal waste, including pet waste, accumulates.

Much of the responsibility of implementing the TMDLs falls to municipalities, with the most costly pollution control actions being upgrades to municipal wastewater treatment facilities and stormwater treatment systems. Watershed councils and other non-profit organizations fill a vital function in gaining popular support by educating the public about the need for individuals to take preventive and corrective actions. Since many of the problems come from our daily activities at home, work and school, the solutions will come from many of us making small changes in our daily routines. See DEM's brochure *10 Simple Things You Can Do To Help Clean Rhode Island Waters*, located on our web, www.dem.ri.gov or call the Office of Water Resources at 222-6800 to obtain a copy.

Project Clean Sweep: **Over 500 Tons of Debris From More Than 100 Miles of Shoreline**



In addition to being unsightly and potentially dangerous to shoreline users, marine debris can degrade coastal habitats and endanger fish and wildlife.

The RI Department of Environmental Management and Clean the Bay have received a \$150,000 grant from NOAA, the largest given to any state under the federal Marine Debris Program. The funds support an 18-month Bay clean up. Estimates from a shoreline survey indicate over 500 tons of debris within the initial target areas, which include about 100 miles of shoreline within three regions: Greenwich Bay, Metro Bay, and the Bay Islands and West Aquidneck Island shoreline.

Project Clean Sweep has three main components: the removal of large debris, such as abandoned boats, docks, pilings and derelict fishing gear; a volunteer campaign to clean up small debris; and a report-response program to retrieve and remove large floating objects before it creates a safety hazard to boaters or reaccumulates along the shoreline.

Never before has there been a comprehensive clean up of marine debris along the RI shoreline. The first phase of the project began in Greenwich Bay, with major support from the City of Warwick, then will proceed to the other targeted shoreline areas. The first phase of the Baywide initiative will cover eight municipalities: Warwick, East Greenwich, Portsmouth, East Providence, Providence, Cranston, Barrington, and Jamestown. DEM and Clean the Bay will apply for additional federal funding this fall to extend the project into other areas of the Bay.



A specially equipped 58-foot mechanized landing craft uses an on-board crane to access large debris on the shoreline or in the water.

Clean the Bay is a newly formed non-profit organization founded by two long-time Narragansett Bay captains, Alan Wentworth and Ed Hughes. The two lead entities are working closely with several other agencies, municipalities, and a number of community-based volunteer groups.

Narragansett Bay Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team: Chair Appointment; Work on Systems Development Plan Begins

The General Assembly has confirmed Dr. Ames Colt as Chair of the Rhode Island Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team and approved \$250,000 per year for monitoring activities proposed by the Team. Dr. Colt comes to the Coordination Team from the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography where he served for over 7 years as Associate Director of the Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program.



Ames Colt, Chair of the RI Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team.

Colt and the Coordination Team have set a short-term goal of improving monitoring and making better use of monitoring results in setting policy, with most of the funding being used for large river monitoring and six fixed stations in the Bay. The Economic Policy Council has allocated \$30,000 for economic monitoring of maritime activity.

According to Colt "The Coordination Team's longer term agenda is to develop a systems integration plan for managing the bay and watershed and develop a coordinated bay and watershed management framework for Rhode Island centered around economic and environmental imperatives."

An invitational Narragansett Bay and Watersheds Summit will be held on September 26th to review accomplishments since 2003, identify challenges and discuss strategic priorities. Colt said "The result will serve as the starting point for the Coordination Team to build on existing agency and program strategic plans and link them together to create a strategic overview and vision that is better than the sum of its parts." Development of such a systems integration plan is legislatively mandated for the Coordination Team. Colt expects work on the plan to begin this fall with a draft for public review and comment completed by the end of 2007.

Environmental Referenda on November 7, 2006 Ballot

Question 7

Fort Adams State Park Recreation and Restoration Bonds \$4,000,000 (Chapter 246 - Public Laws 2006)

This will allow for the State to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes for improvements to the Fort Adams State Park in Newport.

Question 8

Department of Environmental Management Bonds \$3,000,000 (Chapter 246 - Public Laws 2006)

This will allow for the State to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes for the Local Recreation Development Program.

Rhode Island's 2006 Outstanding Dairy Farm

Arruda's Dairy Farm in Tiverton has been named Rhode Island's 2006 Outstanding Dairy Farm of the Year by the Rhode Island Green Pastures Committee.

Arruda's Dairy Farm was founded by Georgianna and Joseph Arruda in Fall River in 1917, where they delivered raw milk to area homes by horse and wagon. Three of the eight children: John, Olivia, and Jean stayed on with their parents to help them with the family business. John operated the milk route, delivering by truck to homes, while Jean and Olivia pasteurized the milk and took care of the cows. When Route 24 and William Cannon Boulevard split the farm in Fall River, the Arrudas sold it and merged their operations with their second, more recent farm in Tiverton. At that time, they began pasteurizing the milk and selling it in glass bottles.

In the late '90s, Jean, and her husband Antone Moniz, Sr., bought the farm from the other heirs. They and their two sons, Antone Jr. and Joseph, continue to carry on the family tradition of running the family farm. They harvest corn, grass silage, and small grains, manage a herd of cows, and breed them for their own herd replacement. The farm supplies homogenized milk skim, low fat, 2 percent fat, and whole which is produced and pasteurized at the farm, and delivers it regionally. The milk, they note, is free of synthetic BST, meaning that there is no bovine growth hormones injected into their cows.



The Moniz Family (l-r) Tony Jr., Frank PontGarca (worker), Jean, Kimberly, Trisha, Anita and Joe Moniz.



It's Harvest Time!

Harvest time offers a great opportunity to visit RI farm's to pick your own apples, pumpkins or other fall crop.

For more information on pick your own farms, visit <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/agricult.htm>.



Upcoming Events/Meetings

September 21

Informational Workshop on Proposed Renewal of United Oil Recovery's Hazardous Waste Treatment and Storage Facility Permit. 1:30 PM., DEM Headquarters, 235 Promenade Street, room 300, Providence. For information, contact Yan Li at 222-2797 ext. 7529.

September 27

Public Workshop on Scituate Reservoir Watershed Greenspace Project. 7 p.m. at the Gloucester Town Hall. For information, call Scott Millar at 222-4700 ext. 4419.

September 28

Public Workshop on Scituate Reservoir Watershed Greenspace Project. 7 PM at the Eddy Building in Foster. For information, call Scott Millar at 222-4700 ext. 4419.

September 30

Brownfields Revitalization Workshop, 9-3:30 (lunch provided), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA. For more information contact cpeo@cpeo.org

September 30

National Estuaries Day. 10 AM to 3 PM, Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration. Co-Sponsored by DEM via the Narragansett Bay Research Reserve. For information, call Kristin Van Wagner at 683-1478.

October 3 & 7

14th Annual "Walk in the Forest". 9 AM to noon at the Browning Mill Pond recreation area in DEM's Arcadia Management Area on Arcadia Road in Hope Valley. For information, call Paul Dolan at DEM's Division of Forest Environment at 647-3367.

October 6

State Technical Committee meeting, discussion of The Solid Waste Management Plan, 9 AM, Department of Administration, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C. For information, call Patrica Greene at 222-7901

October 7 (raindate October 8)

13th annual Rhode Island Southern New England Giant Pumpkin Growers Championship, Frerich's Farm in Warren, RI. For information, call Barbara Frerich at 245-8245 or Ron Newman at DEM at 222-278, ext:4518.

October 10

Public workshop on Dam Safety Regulations. 2 P.M, DEM Headquarters, 235 Promenade St., room 30, Providence. For information, call Paul Guglielmino at 222-4700, ext. 7122.

October 10

Earth Day RI meeting, 5:30 PM, 235 Promenade St., room 320C, Providence. For more information contact Jef Fornaro at jefjr@cox.net.

October 12

State Planning Council meeting, discussion of The Solid Waste Management Plan, 9 AM, Department of Administration, 2nd Floor, Conference Room A. For information, call 222-1220.

October 14

The Flyfishing Express. 9 AM-3 PM. Come aboard The Old Colony Train on a flyfishing safari. Lunch and equipment are provided. Fee: \$60.00/person, pre-registration required, Space limited. For information, contact: Kimberly Sullivan, 789-0281 or kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov.

October 16

Public Hearing re: Proposed Changes to RI marine commercial fishing license regulations. 6 PM at the URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium, Narragansett. For information, call Jason McNamee at 423-1943.

October 18

RI Marine Fisheries Council Meeting. 6 PM, Corless Auditorium at the University of Rhode Island's Bay Campus on South Ferry Road, Narragansett. For information, call Jason McNamee at 423-1943.