

Fishermen rejoice! Trout season opens on Saturday

Don't miss Kettlebottom Outdoor Pursuits on NESN this Saturday

Spring has entered the building! This is a very exciting time of year for the local outdoor enthusiasts and I have to admit the anticipation has been killing me! Over a month ago, I broke out the fishing rods and replaced monofilament, cleaned and lubed the reels and brought the rods in need of repair over to Bob at Wickford Rod Works.

I won't have to wait too long to wet a line, albeit in freshwater, as this Saturday at 6 a.m. is "opening day" for trout in the Ocean State. You may have to fight the crowds on opening day at most of the local rivers and ponds, but it is an exciting experience that includes adults and children and everyone is almost always in good spirits. Try your luck at Silver Springs Pond in North Kingstown, Melville Pond in Portsmouth or, for children under the age of 14, the "kid's pond" at Arcadia is a sure bet. For bait fishermen, our best

luck on opening day includes pink or orange "power bait," which is basically a small ball of a putty-like material that easily attaches to a hook. Cast your power bait a short distance from the shore and try different depths, hanging the power bait just under a bobber or adding some split shot weights on the line just above the hook to send it to the bottom.

For those who like a more active fishing style, try a Mepps' spinner or any small gold or silver lure. The fly guys might want to try a wooly bugger, streamer or beaded nymph. Cast in and around structure, including river bends, rocks and boulders or fallen branches and trees. Don't forget to let your lure or fly sink a bit before retrieving, as the cool early season water temps push the trout deep. The Wood River holds big numbers of trout and is a great spot for both spinning and fly fishing on opening day and throughout the season.

If you are lucky enough to tie into a trout, make sure you save it for dinner, or better yet breakfast! I love cooking my trout simply gutted and beheaded, lightly floured,



Island Fishing Report

By Robb Roach

in a cast iron skillet. Complimented by scrambled or poached eggs and toast, it is a breakfast fit for any hungry fisherman!

Fishing for striped bass is a year-round experience here in New England. You can find "hold over" striped bass right now just below Slater Mill in Pawtucket south to the hurricane barrier in Providence. There are also micro stripers showing up at the West Wall in Jerusalem (Galilee) and they will soon arrive at Second Beach in Newport. Break out your light tackle (8-10 lb. test) spinning rods and throw on a one-ounce bucktail or lead head with a rubber tail and cast into the current and near structure. The spring color of choice for the Kettlebottom Crew is definitely white, it out fishes all other colors by a

significant margin, probably due to the lack of water clarity and the springtime forage.

I saw Jeff Fantoli at the N.E. Saltwater Fishing show this past weekend and he reported seeing turkeys in North Kingstown "strutting their stuff." This was confirmed by my father and another friend from southwest Connecticut who also witnessed frisky toms looking to get lucky. The turkey population in Rhode Island and throughout the United States has exploded in recent years and become one of the most successful re-introductions of any species in history. Thank your local hunter for this, as the hunting license fees and hunter-supported conservation groups like the "Wild Turkey Foundation" are largely responsible for the resurgence. Your chance to harvest one of these tasty birds starts at the end of this month, so start practicing your calls and go pattern your gun.

The month of April is a fantastic time to experience the multitude of hiking opportunities throughout our state. It is also a great time to view birds of all

varieties on their northern migration. Grab your kids, cousins, and neighbors and head to Great Swamp, Arcadia, Card's Pond, or Big River before the ticks come out. Research the trail and if you can bring along a small fishing rod for a few casts you may get lucky.

Here at Kettlebottom we have a ton of exciting fishing shows in the pipeline to get you primed for the season. Tune in to NESN each and every Saturday at noon.

This week on Kettlebottom Outdoor Pursuits, Captain Ralph Perna hosts John Longo and Todd Mannarino aboard his boat, Amalia, off the coast of Connecticut. While fishing for striped bass, the trio hooks up with a much underrated game fish, the dreaded bluefish. After catching a couple blues for the table, Ralph heads to Fisher's Island to hook up with fluke and scup. Once home, the Pernas host John Longo, preparing a delicious Sicilian recipe, pesce e patate, showing that bluefish, despite its reputation, can make a great meal.

We'll see you there!

Lyme expert to give talk in Providence

Internationally recognized Lyme disease expert, Dr. Bernard Raxlen, will report the latest scientific information on prevention, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of the debilitating illness at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Providence on Monday, April 28. A limited number of seats are available to the public for the luncheon presentation. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Raxlen has successfully treated over 4,500 cases of tick-borne disease.

The Lyme disease presentation will be given from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Providence Marriott. Tickets are available at \$25 per person by sending a check to Rotary Club of Providence, Attn: Committee on Lyme, 27 Dryden Lane, Providence, RI 02904.

Meet wild animals at Newport library

The Newport Public Library will present "Jungle Encounters," a live exotic animal program on Thursday, April 17, at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 4 years and up are invited to see and pet live exotic animals in the lower level program room. Zookeeper and wildlife educator Debi Willoughby will present a Bengal cat, ringtail cat, fennec fox and Patagonian cavy.

This program is free and there is no registration necessary. For more information, call 847-8720, ext. 204.

Women's hike to benefit domestic victims

The three-day Wilderness Heals Annual Pledge Hike is one of New England's most challenging all-female fund-raising hikes.

Join fellow women, July 18 through 20, for a hike through New Hampshire's White Mountains to help raise \$125,000 for the Elizabeth Stone House in Boston, Mass. The Stone House serves women and their children who have experienced mental illness, domestic violence and substance abuse.

Choose from four trail options, including a backcountry option. Three out of the four routes offer hikers overnight accommodations in AMC huts. Each team of four to six women will include an experienced team leader. The fundraising minimum is \$1,200 to participate. Hiker registration fee is \$50 and the deadline is June 20. For more information and to register, visit www.elizabethstone.org or call 617-427-9801, ext. 415.

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KARN'S Law Group

LEGAL TIP

An elementary school must continue to exercise reasonable care for the safety of its students even after dismissing them from school early, the New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled.

The school was sued for negligence after an unattended third grade student was struck by a vehicle several blocks from the school after early dismissal.

The school was located in a "walking district," which had no bus service for students. Its written policy stated that administrators must cooperate with parents to prevent children from leaving school unsupervised.

The student's family claimed they were unaware that early dismissal was scheduled for that day.

A trial judge granted summary judgement for the school.

But the supreme court held that it was foreseeable that a young child who leaves school without a parent or guardian might be vulnerable to harm.



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