



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers *Foundation*

Foundation contributes to U.S. Fishing & Wildlife Service to preserve night fishing at Ninigret Park

Fishing the annual Spring cinder worm hatch on Ninigret Park in Charlestown is legendary among fly fishing and light tackle anglers. The most convenient way to get to this fishing is at the Grassy Point fishing area at the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge where there is a small boat launch. But access to Grassy Point can only be done by driving through Ninigret Park, owned by the Town of Charlestown.

Like many such parks which are susceptible to vandalism, teen drinking, etc. after dark, the park closes the gate at sunset. This rule is a hindrance to anglers wanting to fish the after-dark worm hatch.

Last November, **David Pollack**, a member of RISAA's Public Access Committee and chair of the Kayak Committee, decided to contact the **Charles Vandemoer** of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, who is the manager of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, seeking assistance in getting night access to the area.

After much work, Charlie Vandemoer and David were successful in convincing Charlestown officials that night fishing access was important.

On January 06, 2009 the Town of Charlestown Parks and Recreation Commission voted 6 to 1 to modify and expand Town Park hours to accommodate fishing access:

- May 1 - June 30, the Town Park would remain open from 5:00 AM to 10:00 PM Sunday through Thursday.
- On Fridays and Saturdays, the Park would remain open from 5:00 AM - midnight.

This issue next went to the Charlestown Town Council in March which voted unanimously to extend the evening hours through May and June as proposed.

"It's not perfect," said David Pollack. "I would have preferred 24 hour access, but at least this is a step in the right direction."

But, the Charlestown Police Department voiced concerns on how they could best protect Town Park facilities during the expanded evening hours. While they do have a surveillance system, it could not operate after dark.

Charlie Vandemoer agreed that this was a legitimate problem, and made a proposal to RISAA, asking for assistance in funding a night surveillance system that could be used by both the Charlestown Police Department and the Refuge, and would reduce potential conflicts between extended fishing hours and protection of Town property.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service would "more than match" a contribution from RISAA for the estimated cost of \$2,000 for the system.

This was brought to the Foundation's Board of Directors in April and unanimously approved.

As of this writing, recreational anglers are fishing the Ninigret worm hatch with access at the Grassy Point fishing area in Charlestown!



Charles Vandemoer (left) of USFWS receives the RISAA Foundation contribution towards the night surveillance system at Ninigret Park from David Pollack

Razin Kane

Sport Fishing Charters

Sport Fish in Luxury

Captain Sandy Kane

Sailing from Wickford, RI



38' Blackfin - twin diesels

www.kanesguns.com

Day: 401-295-0642 • Eve: 401-423-1587



Member

2503 Main Road (RTE. 77) Tiverton, RI 02878
401-624-3464
www.donsmarineri.com

DON'S MARINE
 INCORPORATED

Parker
 STRENGTH
 SIMPLICITY
 SEAWORTHINESS

WALKAROUNDS
 CENTER CONSOLES,
 SPORT CABINS

NO Sales Tax on boats
 bought in Rhode Island!

Powered By
YAMAHA
 - 30 Years Of Sales And Service Integrity