

FISHING AT WILDWOOD

Ann Fazi



Fishing can be fun for EVERYONE! It can be enjoyed by the very young and very old and everyone in between. It is a relaxing, exciting, and relatively cheap sport. You can be alone or share the chase with someone else. We here at Wildwood are lucky to have two beautiful bodies of water where fish thrive. The Ponds committee thought it would be beneficial to share some information with you.



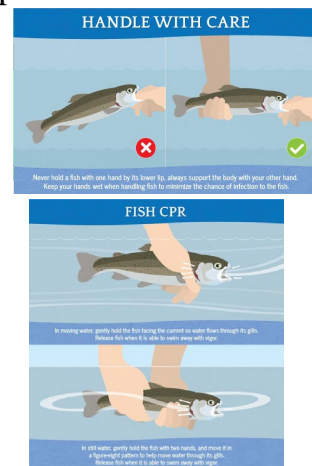
Wildwood is home to several varieties of native fish as well as trout that are stocked. On April 22, 710 rainbow trout 12-14" long were put into the ponds, 2/3 in Cranberry and 1/3 in Otter. When fishing in Cranberry Pond you are allowed to keep two trout per day. Bass are catch and release. In the past Otter pond has been stocked with yellow perch for leech control. Otter pond is **catch and release for ALL fish** in order to maintain that control.



Using proper techniques will benefit the fish and also help to protect Wildwood waters from invasive species. Please use artificial bait if possible and if you use any live bait **do not dump any remnants of bait water into the lake**. In order to protect the fish during catch and release we recommend you use barbless hooks. They work just as well

catching and make releasing easier on the fish. They are easily found in fishing supply, but if you want to modify hooks you already have, you can crush the barb with needle nose pliers or something similar.

And, please put them carefully back into the water. **Don't just toss them!**



When releasing fish it is best NOT to take them out of the water (they feel the same way out of water as you feel under water ...they can't breathe!). A rubberized net can be helpful to support your fish while you do this. If this is not possible the next best thing is to try to quickly release the hook without actually touching the fish. They have a slime coat that protects them, which if damaged, puts them at risk for injury and disease. PLEASE always **wet your hands** if you need to handle the fish. If all else fails, hold the fish securely by putting your hand around the middle and remove the hook. No matter the release method

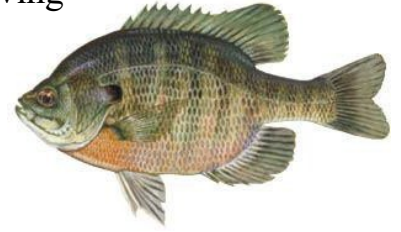




Allowing the fish to flop around on the dock, in the grass or in the boat is very damaging. The key is to be as **GENTLE** as possible to give the fish the best chance of surviving to be caught again. If the fish swallows the hook the best thing is to cut the line as far down the gullet as possible. There are also tools that can be helpful in removing

the hook. There are lots of tips and videos on the internet that can be helpful for learning release techniques. One good source is

<https://www.keepfishwet.org/>



The Ponds Committee and our new fish chairman, Chuck Koteen are very interested in learning all we can about the fish and fishing at both ponds. To that end we are asking that anyone who has information to share, enter it at WPOA.Ponds@gmail.com. Any observations about the fish or fishing are much appreciated. We know fisher people are reluctant to share their secrets, but any information we can gather will be helpful to us in evaluating and maintaining healthy fish populations.

It would be very helpful if you could tell us:

Which pond were you fishing? What kind of fish were you trying to catch? What did you catch? How big was your catch? We are happy to have any other observations you might like to make or **PICTURES** are great too! **We**

encourage you to use this email for any pond

observations, not just fish. The committee needs YOUR HELP to keep our waters in the best condition possible!



The committee is also working on getting an official fish survey. It will be submitted as a budget item. The people who do the survey only net from the shore and we know many of the fish hang out near the springs, so any information **you** can provide from deeper waters will be very valuable.



On the porch club house bulletin board there is a document showing the types of fish you might find in our ponds. The committee hopes everyone enjoys the fish here at Wildwood and appreciates any input you might want to share.

Thank you