**SALT PONDS COALITION:**
**QUONOCHTAUG POND**

**MAP LEGEND**
- WATER ACCESS
- POINTS OF INTEREST
- PARKING
- WATER
- WATER TRAIL ROUTE
- ROADS
- CAUTION
- CONSERVATION LAND

**LEVEL** Beginner/Intermediate (wind)
**START/END** Quonochontaug Breachway DEM Launch
**RIVER MILES** 4.5 miles round trip
**TIME** Approximately 2 hours
**DESCRIPTION** Flatwater
**SCENERY** Coastal woodlands, coastal barrier, salt marshes, and birds
**ACCESS** DEM Fishermen’s Access, end of West Beach Road, off Route 1, in Charlestown

**TOUR THE PERIMETER OF THE POND**
The DEM facility is open year-round and free of charge. Porta-Johns are available in the summer months. From the launch, loop to the east toward Bill’s Island. South of Bill’s Island is an extensive salt marsh full of small channels to explore at high tide. Both Bill’s Island and the marshes are held in conservation trust and offer habitat for a variety of migratory birds. Southeast of Bill’s Island is “Whistling Chimneys,” a private residence which was originally a trading post owned by General Stanton. General Stanton was given all of Quonochontaug by the Chief Sachem of the Narragansett tribe after rescuing the Chief’s daughter. Heading north across the pond you will come to Picnic Rock, the rocky islands not far off the Shady Harbor shoreline. Heading west from there you will pass some lovely homes along the communities of Shady Harbor, Ninigret Cove and then Shelter Harbor. Shelter Harbor was a music colony early in the twentieth century, now a residential area. All of the roads are named after composers. Continue west through the narrows between Nope’s Island and Shelter Harbor and you will soon encounter a rock pile just a few degrees to starboard. If the wind is light it can be fun to paddle around the rocky shallows and see what you can spot. As you loop around to the north of the rock pile you are in an area called Harmonic Cove. The neighborhood to the east is part of Shelter Harbor and the houses to the north are in Haversham. From this point you can head due south and land on the sandy beach known as Ski Beach. This is a good spot to stretch your legs and if you like you can follow a path across the dunes and check out the ocean beach. If you are feeling strong you could continue your paddle to the west and check out the Weekapaug Inn, which is the large structure at the end of the pond. The Inn was rebuilt on that site after the original beachfront Inn was

*Continued on the back***
“QUONNIE” POND

Quonochontaug Pond is in the towns of Charlestown and Westerly. Much of the shoreline is kept in its natural state by state and federal agencies, and local conservation groups. Windsurfing, kayaking, fishing, and swimming are popular activities. Resources support both commercial and recreational fishing, including bluefish and striped bass.

QUONNIE POND

Quonnie Pond, as it is affectionately known, is a mostly pristine coastal lagoon shared by the Towns of Charlestown and Westerly. There are several small brooks which flow into Quonnie, with little development around them.

The West Beach neighborhood along the breachway was a summer tourist spot full of hotels and rooming houses, all lost in the 1938 hurricane. All along the pond are beautiful Victorian “summer cottages”, many held by the same families for generations.

The existing breachway was straightened and dredged in 1962. The DEM fishermen’s access is a very popular spot for fishing, although currently very much in disrepair. Recently fly-fishing from kayaks has become very popular.

The shoreline is part of the Atlantic Flyway, a major migratory bird resting area. Birders come from all over to spot shorebirds and waterfowl. The pond is also used heavily for recreation, shellfishing, sailing, and kayaking to name a few.

Quonnie is a well-protected “gem”. Early on, folks provided for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection. Most of the properties around the pond have large acreage, and have been passed undeveloped for its preservation and protection.

Visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of this magnificent salt pond.

destroyed by the Hurricane of 1938 and it underwent major renovation during 2011/12. In front of the Inn is Judges Rock where the race committee used to observe the sailboat races. The opening to Weekapaug harbor is just to the left of the Inn.

Traveling back to the east along the barrier beach, you will encounter an orange and white “No Shellfishing” sign. From this sign down to Nope’s Island is a spawner sanctuary that is routinely stocked with shellfish by volunteers of the Salt Ponds Coalition and The Nature Conservancy. Most of the barrier beach along this stretch is held in conservation trust by a variety of land trusts. During the spring, waters and marshes adjacent to Nope’s Island are full of mating horseshoe crabs. Between Nope’s Island and the current breachway is what remains of the original Quonochontaug Breachway. It no longer connects to the sea and is a wonderful place to paddle. The beach at the end of the old channel is privately owned by the Rhode Island Mobile Sportsfisherman, so please seek permission if you would like to land. Off to the left of their parking lot, in the beachgrass and dunes, are a few stonewall remains of old lifeboat station 6 of the U.S. Life Saving Service. Coast Guardsmen conducted rescues by rowing six-man lifeboats through the surf or out the old breachway. When returning to the launch site, beware of strong currents through the breachway. It is best to paddle north where the channel widens into sand flats and to stay out of the walled portion of the channel. Powerboat traffic may be heavy in this area during the summer months.

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AND CARRY A WHISTLE OR OTHER SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE, PREFERABLY ATTACHED TO YOUR LIFE JACKET. PADDLERS SHOULD CHECK WATER LEVEL AND TIDES, WEATHER, AND WATERWAY CONDITIONS PRIOR TO EVERY TRIP. REMOVE WHAT YOU BRING, CLEAN UP MORE IF YOU CAN. PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY. REPORT ANY PROBLEMS YOU ENCOUNTER TO CHARLESTOWN HARBOR MASTER AT 401-641-3083 AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF APPROPRIATE.