



Salt Ponds Coalition

Presents

**The Nature
Conservancy**



A special Paddle on Ninigret Pond

Saturday July 17th

Fun and educational. Meet other paddlers, and enjoy paddling on this beautiful pond



US Fish and Wildlife Service on the Ninigret Wildlife Refuge.



Marine biologist Art Ganz on the pond ecosystem and barrier beach.



Pam Lyons on the history of Cross Mills and Fort Ninigret.



The Nature Conservancy on shellfish restoration including clam survey demo.



Collection of native pond creatures with 40-foot net

Meet at Ninigret Park/refuge launch at 8:30am. Come tour hidden waterways and coves with a collection of experts who know the pond like nobody else. The paddle will be a little over four miles and the group should be back at the launch by 11:30.

Paddlers supply their own equipment. Motor escort provided

There is no fee for this paddle.

More Info at
www.saltpondscoalition.org
or call 401-322-3068



For Immediate Release

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Salt Ponds Coalition to Host Guided Kayak Outing on Ninigret Pond*Fun and Informative with Expert Interpretation*

CHARLESTOWN—The Salt Ponds Coalition (SPC) in partnership with The Nature Conservance (TNC) will sponsor an interpretive kayak trip on Ninigret Pond on Saturday July 17th 2010, starting at the US Fish & Wildlife kayak launch accessed through Ninigret Park, which is just off of Route 1 in Charlestown. The group will meet at the launch ramp at 8:30am and the plan is to get underway by 9:00am.

During the paddle, a representative of US Fish & Wildlife Service will point out places of interest and discuss the history of the pond, the land, and the previous uses of the wildlife refuge. The group will proceed east towards Ocean House Marina, where Pam Lyons of the Charlestown Historical Society will talk about the history of Fort Ninigret and the Cross Mills area. Across the pond, Art Ganz, a retired marine biologist, president of Salt Ponds Coalition, and founder of the SPC kayak trips, will lead a short beach walk and discuss the dynamics of the barrier beach. Along the way, Pond Watcher Dick Sartor will describe the process by which SPC monitors water quality in the pond. There will be a display with representatives of TNC demonstrating techniques for measuring clam health and there will also be an ongoing seine net activity where a 40 net is pulled to the beach and marine creatures are examined before being released.

“These trips are great fun,” said Ganz. “We will enjoy a leisurely paddle on a beautiful stretch of water and hear from people who know a lot of interesting facts about the ponds.” Paddlers of all abilities are welcome, as are canoes, as long as they are able to safely navigate the local conditions. The trip will cover the central section of the pond and will avoid areas of high boat traffic. The trip should be over around noon. For more information, please visit saltpondscoalition.org, or call 401-322-3068. SPC recommends participants bring sun block, drinking water, appropriate safety gear, and, of course, the boat and paddle of their choice. Rain/high wind/fog date is June 1st. There is no charge for this trip.

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The Salt Ponds Coalition (SPC) was incorporated in 1985 with the objective of protecting and preserving the nine coastal ponds along Rhode Island’s south coast. The mission of the Coalition is to educate the residents of the salt-ponds watershed area on issues relating to the health of the ponds; act as a conduit between citizens of our coastal communities and state and federal governments; implement programs to enhance the environment of the salt ponds; and make the Coalition’s ecosystem experience available to other organizations. SPC welcomes new members to join in the effort to protect the salt ponds. For more information on joining the SPC, please visit

www.saltpondscoalition.org or call 401-322-3068

Directions to Ninigret Park

From Route 1 traveling east: (When coming from the east, go past the park and make a U-turn at the exit for the Kettle Pond Visitor Center.)

- Exit on to route 1A. (There is a Rhode Island tourist info building visible at the exit.)
- Within a few hundred yards, take a right into the main entrance for Ninigret Park.
- Follow the main access road through the park to the parking area for the US Fish and Wildlife refuge.

