

## Records Pond

91.9 acres

Laurel

### ***Fish Community***

Records Pond (also called Laurel Lake by locals) offers a variety of gamefish species and habitat, from deep areas with rip-rapped banks in the lower end of the pond, to the quiet, over-grown streams of the headwater tributaries. The pond was drawdown to stream level in preparation for super storm Sandy in October of 2012. To supplement the low density population of fish that persisted after the drawdown, the pond was stocked with 4,600 Bluegill, 1,200 Golden Shiner and 4,700 Largemouth Bass fingerlings. Fish community sampling conducted by the Division in the spring of 2015 revealed a population that has rebounded and is comprised of a variety of species and sizes. This finding is supported by the results of a state-wide angler survey that showed catch per angler trip was higher at Records Pond than any other state pond (with the exception of Horsey Pond). The Largemouth Bass population is comprised of a variety of sizes and the proportion of quality sized bass (>12") and preferred sized bass (>15") was within the target range for a balanced fish community. Relative weights (indication of condition or 'plumpness') were good for almost all size groups. Bluegill of all sizes were quite abundant which is not surprising given the propensity of this species to rebound from low numbers. The proportion of Bluegill >6" was on target to produce an abundance of good sized (>8") in a few years. Black Crappie were less abundant but relative weights have improved and fish up to 10" in length were observed. Several citation sized ( $\geq 1\text{lb}$  or  $\geq 12\text{"}$ ) Black Crappie were reported by anglers in 2013. Although only a few Chain Pickerel were observed during sampling (this species can avoid being captured by electrofishing gear) a citation sized pickerel ( $\geq 4\text{lbs}$  or  $\geq 24\text{"}$ ) was reported by an angler in 2014.

Redear Sunfish, originally confirmed in the pond in 2004, persisted post drawdown and were quite numerous around the 'cypress islands' in the open water of the pond. Surprisingly, this species was more abundant than Bluegill but showed signs of variable recruitment and had lower relative weights. The population is currently dominated by individuals >9" and even larger fish should be available in a few years. Growth of Redear is much faster than Bluegill and it is not uncommon for individuals to grow >12". Other species captured during sampling in 2015 included: American Eel, Brown Bullhead, and Yellow Perch.



### ***Vegetation***

Spatterdock beds are scattered over much of the pond and around the cypress tree "islands". Watermeal, duckweed and floating mats of filamentous algae are also periodically present along the shoreline and around the spatterdock beds. Hydrilla was present in the past but has not been observed in recent years, possibly being shaded out by floating algal mats.

### ***Access***

The area between the boat ramp and deeper water has filled in with sediments over the years and may require some maneuvering via a small channel to reach the deeper water. A handicapped-

accessible fishing pier was constructed in the southwest corner of the pond near the water control structure. The deep water and shoreline structure in this area tends to hold panfish, including some citation sized crappie. A fishing pier is also located just downstream of the pond in the headwaters of Broad Creek. During most seasons, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, Channel Catfish, and occasional Striped Bass offer a variety of angling experiences from this pier.

A portion of James Branch that feeds the headwaters of Records Pond has been dedicated as a State Natural Area. A canoe float-trip from Trap Pond to Records Pond provides unmatched scenery as well as the opportunity for some leisurely fishing. Check with the Trap Pond Park Office (302-875-5153) to confirm that the creek is accessible.



*The boat ramp and access area at Records Pond is located off of US Route 13, east of the town of Laurel*



**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

**When you leave a body of water:**

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



*Help us prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species*

**(see Pond Map on next page)**



# Records Pond Laurel, Delaware



## Legend

- Flow
- Fishing Pier
- Boat Ramp
- Parking
- Spatterdock
- Flooded Shrubs
- Hydrilla
- Island

Surface Acres - 91.9

Modern depth contours are not currently available.

Given depths are approximate.

The boat ramp and parking area can be accessed from Route 13 Northbound by taking the first right North of the pond.

