



# Fish Wrapping Up 2017

by TODD CORAYER

So it is, the end of another year and we've been so fortunate to report on people searching for and catching fish, people protecting the resources and people who were just straight away characters.

We started by meeting Mike Lee, proud new owner of Al's Goldfish Lure Ciompany, the perfect lure that's likely caught a million trout. Mike's added a Saltwater Series to his tackle box and from my hours of swinging it through some salt ponds, it's a serious fish finder.

By the end of the "Trailer Trash" saga (printed the RISAA News Magazine last year) we found resolution after a disturbingly torturous episode with a DMV worker who could only repeat, "There's nothing I can do for you," with the most wonderful Lisa Egan who made everything right and even, a little fun. Cheers to you, Lisa.

Just prior to opening day of trout season, we met RIDEM biologist **Ken Fernstrom** who has spent 18 years raising fish and this year, he cared for [200,000 rainbows](#), 48,000 brookies, 50,00 brown trout and 40,000 salmon at North Kingstown's Lafayette Fish Hatchery. We met **Walter Eddy** at the Carolina Trout Hatchery where he's been since 1955.



**Walter Eddy knee deep in rainbows**

"I started working here when I was 14," he said. "I started part-time, never left." Standing in icy raceway water, topped with a wonderful shock of silver hair, he stood seemingly unaware of 18" rainbows gliding between his feet.

Then came Orvis fly-fishing ambassador and Saltwater Edge owner **Peter Jenkins** at his Retro-Fit Plug Night where grilling steak tips and Allman Brothers riffs marinated the air, fishermen gripped tall bottles while winter doldrums gripped us all.



**Peter Jenkins, teacher at his desk**

Outside, roads were tight with dirty snow; it felt like years since we've been fishing. Peter Jenkins, shopkeeper, guide, tier of flies, relentless fisherman, consummate gentleman, stood shaking hands over the glass counter. Peter created a temporary oasis on a February night.



**Richard Laurie**

Over the year, we covered several speakers and adventures with the [R.I. Saltwater Anglers](#) as they donated boats, sweat and time to keep kids fishing and stocks healthy.

Newport's **Richard Laurie** offered us simple fluke fishing counsel like, "You just gotta be where the bait is" and, "We stop fishing for the season when

they stop biting." Class dismissed.

"Whatever I catch, I'm going to say it was three times bigger," said 13 year old Tim Roberts.



**That's the ace, Tim Roberts on the left. He only paused for a moment before catching yet another fish during the RISAA Youth Fishing Camp**

Tim caught a boatload during last summer's [R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association's Youth Fishing Camp](#). Kids' thumbs may be fast as lighting when LOL-ing, but real world skills like knot tying, boating safety and how to read a compass are what RISAA volunteers teach them for a lifetime on the water.

**(to page 40)**

