

ACTIVEfamily

MAGAZINE

Your Guide to Fun, Healthy Activities, Ideas, Books, the Arts, Games and More!



Been There, Love That!

Beachdale Pond, North Stonington

When I think of paddling on the quiet water of Beachdale Pond, my imagination fills with memories of the wildlife! During a recent kayak trip there, my friend Art and I were amazed by the variety of creatures we saw in the course of just two hours:

- One lone female Mallard charging along in front of a large flock of swimming geese.
- Three painted turtles resting on lily pads; they all jumped in the water as we sneaked up on them.
- Huge dragonflies skimming along the water's surface looking for treats.
- A stunning emerald green damselfly resting on a tree branch.
- A Red-Winged Blackbird singing its summer song.
- Bullfrogs surrounding us ~ okay, we heard them, we didn't see them.
- A family of swans ~ a protective dad, a placid mother and seven robust youngsters.
- Two more painted turtles warming on a log; they jumped, too, upon our approach.
- Swallows darting all about us as we inadvertently paddled through their territory.
- A wonderful Great Blue Heron fishing in the marsh grass. Each time we paddled too close for his comfort he flew ahead, finally roosting in a tree to await our passing.

Fishermen note! Beachdale Pond is stocked with trout and has natural bass, pickerel and bullhead. A perfect place to take kids fishing or paddling, this lovely 20-acre pond is a gem you'll want to visit every season!

Paddling Notes

The Beachdale Pond boat launch is user friendly and there's lots of parking. After putting the kayaks in the water, we headed



right under the bridge and kept paddling straight. After about 15 minutes you can go right or left; we headed left for half an hour. During that time we noticed the road traffic more (Route 138/49 is nearby). Nonetheless, we saw lots of wonderful wildlife.

We then turned back, past the boat launch route, and headed up a small stream. At first wide and easy to travel, the stream quickly turned into narrow water paths through a marsh. We spent another half hour heading upstream before turning back, enjoying a bit of favorable current. Since we paddled the Saturday after that tremendous July 1st rain storm, the pond was likely flooded. I'm not sure these meandering paths would be navigable under ordinary conditions, but they were fun!

When You Go

- Visit www.ct.gov/dep and type "Beaver Pond Boat Launch" in search window; click on link for directions and information.
- Bring bug spray, sunblock & your life vests!

