

# Kids Enjoy Rainy Weather Learning to Fish at Bison City

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Jimmy Griffin Memorial "Teach-Me-To-Fish" is Huge Success

April 25, 2010; 127 kids; 19 volunteers; 250 total attendance; Outdoor Fun is Highlight

At the Check-In Station, Joe Jemiolo and Diane Sieber said, "These kids are so great! They are all eady to go, no rainy weather issues!"

Tall kids, short kids, boys and girls, moms and dads, grandpa's and grandma's too, were eager to get started at the Teach-Me-To-Fish fun clinic.

Even though the day was a little wet, everyone enjoyed the fun of learning to fish at the Bison City facility family event. Patrick "Poncho" Stoos coordinated use of 40 rain gear suits that the kids exchanged to stay dry while they

tested their fishing skills in the rain.

Young Collin Voss said, "this rain stuff makes fishing more fun than ever and the fish are biting too!"

The kids took a solid fishing lesson from Norby Antonik and Paul Stoos as they became experts at knot-tying using the strong, but easy-to-tie, Palomar knot.

Charter Captain Jerry May and Teddy "walleye

wizard" Malota provided step-by-step skill forming lessons to help kids learn how to "plunk" their casting plugs into small hula-hoop targets, time after time. Jerry May said, "the kids really pick things up fast! They're really something!"

At the Plastic Bait station, kids learned how-to rig a plastic worm, a plastic jig tail and how to fish with an artificial bait from bassmaster, Scott Gauld. No mess, no fuss! Mom's and dad's liked this stop!



After completing the skill development stations, the kids used rod/reel rigs set up for depth-controlled fishing fun with a nifty slip-bobber. Chris Koch and Earl Farrell Jr. made sure the fishing rigs were "ready to fly" when the kids arrived at the new Bison City fishing pier. The sturdy, new steel hand railing at the pier provided an extra measure of safety for all the kids.

Some kids fished for 10 minutes, others fished an hour, depending on their patience. All

live bait nightcrawlers were donated by Weekley's Bait Shop in Hamburg, New York.

Rainbow trout and sunfish were caught by several lucky anglers, proof that the Buffalo River is successfully rejuvenating! All the fish were released alive back into the river.

All the fish catching kids were declared "derby winners" at the conclusion session inside the club. Accompanied by a rousing round of applause and



congratulations, each was awarded a premium rod/reel outfit for their fishing success. At the "Fish Feeding Station", Earl Farrel Sr. explained why the fingerling steelhead were placed in the





floating pens (to scent imprint to the river so they return next year and for the next 20 years). The kids were provided a small container of high protein fish food as provided by the DEC. The water surface boiled with hungry fish at every feeding cycle. Fun for the kids to see and do!

Over the course of the fishing day, Spencer Schofield offered on-site map reading skills to families to help them find their way to the next hotspot to test their skills using the Lake Erie Fishing Hotspot map.



Dennis Smith and Willie Sieber kept the grilled Sahlens' hot dog line moving fast enough to keep the kids coming back for succulent seconds. Kids (and parents) loves hot dogs! They ate 50 pounds of 'dogs provided by Sahlens

**Meat Packing.**

A rousing round of applause sang through the air, as the crowd thanked all the Bison City volunteers for the fun day.



Special thanks to Berkley/Pure Fishing, Northern King Lures, Mustad Hooks, Will Elliott of the Buffalo news, the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Weekley's Bait and the Erie County Fish Advisory Board. Special thanks to Bass Pro Scott Gauld and all the Bison City volunteers who helped the kids learn more about how to have fun in the outdoors through fishing.

**Thanks TEAM!**  
Dave Barus 2010 event chairman



