

“Teach-Me-To-Fish” 2010 Clinic Teaches Kids Fun, Confidence Kids Catch Many Fish at Chestnut Ridge Lake Paradise

June 26, 2010; 106 Kids Registered, 32 Volunteers, 6-Learning Station format!

Little Nick Bradfuchres had a new rod/reel outfit to put together. His grandmother asked WNY Bassmaster pro angler Scott Gauld and Charter Cptn Joe Jemiolo if they could help. About 5-minutes later, Nick had a worm on his hook, then for the first time in his life, he cast a fishing line all by himself.



to 14 inches. New York Walleye Association members, Pete Quagliana and Don Nikischer measured most of the fish caught and released them to the aerated “Lunker Pool”, where DEC biologists had a chance to assess fish size, general health and then release the fish back to the lake.

It didn't go far, about 15 feet, but that was good enough for one hungry fish.



The bobber slipped below the water line and everyone yelled, PULL THE LINE!! He did. After a brief battle, a healthy 8-1/4 inch bluegill came flopping over the bank. First rod/reel, first cast, first fish! WOW! One leaping, jumping, happy youngster!

The “biggest fish” caught was a 13-1/2 inch largemouth bass landed by 15 year-old Jason Dorsey, who caught 2 bass the exact same size, both on a purple plastic worm. Dorsey chose an open face rod/reel and some tackle as his grand prize.



The “smallest fish” caught was 4-way tie with Angela Anzalone, Ginsey Tytka, Emily Hansen and Cassia Bartula sharing honors as they all had caught 4-inch sunfish.

One lucky, happy, grandma! They may both be hooked for life on fishing! *Fishing life is good!*

Kids caught over 300 fish in 2 short hours of lakeside fun. Total estimated attendance, including parents, was 245 folks for the annual fish/learn Chestnut Ridge clinic event.

At the Live Bait Station, Jerry Levan, Tom Fischer and Don Davis provided worms for all the youngsters, all donated by Weekley's Bait in Hamburg. Kids used 'em up fast.

The kids caught yellow perch to 10 inches, bluegills to 9 inches, rock bass to 10 inches, black crappie to 11 inches and largemouth bass

The “oddest catch” category went to Kaden Vicke who caught a 24-pound snapping turtle!

Some 9 kids caught their first fish ever! All the kids caught fish, some caught as many as 10





fish to top “most fish” honors. Some 92 rods/reels were awarded by random raffle to kids that successfully completed four of the 6-Learning Station program. Many parents thanked volunteers individually for the manner of the organized teaching program, stating, “this is such a great

way to teach us and our kids how to develop the necessary skills for fishing, plus we learned all about lakes, ponds, fauna, it was great fun!”

The Learning Stations included:

- 1) **Knot-Tying**, kids learned to tie Palomar Knot with Norby Antonik, Russ Johnson, Bob Carlson.
- 2) **Plastic Baits**, kids learned to rig a plastic worm and jig tail on a hook with Pro angler Scott Gauld, Fish Advisory Board members Ron Smith, Joe Jemiolo
- 3) **NYS-DEC**, 2-stop learning station with fish and fauna included DEC biologists Mike Wilkinson, Mike Todd and Matt Bowker.
- 4) **Casting Station**, kids learned the right way to cast with Dr. Rick Wattengel and legendary Lake Erie walleye angler Ted Malota.



- 5) **Where-To-Fish**, details of the popular ECFAB hotspot fishing map were provided by Fish Advisory members Joe Fischer and Spencer Schofield, illustrating where to fish Erie County waters.
- 6) **How-To-Fish**, with Paul Stoos and DEC central NYS biologist, Mike Diserno. Kids



learned how to adjust bobber stops, choose split shot, hooks and “catch fish” tricks. Sahlen's hot dogs were grilled fresh on hot charcoal by Hawkeye Bowmen troops, Ray Gwarek, Jim Chiro, Tony Wenzka, Bob Wagner and Bob Bruen.

Rod/Reel station attendants Antoinette Grote and Chuck

Godfrey took care of providing more 100 free rental rods/reels to kids and parents.



Fish Advisory Board volunteers. Thanks to all who volunteered time to help kids learn more about fun of the outdoors through fishing. Special official thanks to the Erie County

Legislature and Crows Nest Outdoorsmen for their cash donations to help offset event costs. **Thanks TEAM!**
Dave Barus 2010 Federation coordinator.
Mike Todd 2010 NYSDEC coordinator.