

Kids Enjoy Rain to Fish at Bison City

7th Annual Jimmy Griffin Memorial "Teach-Me-To-Fish" is Huge Success
May 1, 2011; 103 kids; 29 volunteers; 247 total attendance; Outdoor Fun is Highlight

The rain and wind found the club grounds for the 2nd straight year as Linda Cooley, Rose Barus and Norby Antonik registered 103 kids to learn about fishing fun in the outdoors!

Cub scouts and their leaders too, kids of all sizes, boys and girls, moms and dads, grandpa's and grandma's, all were eager to get started with the 7-Learning Station trail at the Bison City Teach-Me-To-Fish clinic.

The learning began with a brief 20-slide intro video from outdoor writer, Forrest Fisher. The kids jumped from their seats ready to satisfy their curiosity on the new trail to outdoor fishing fun.

Even though the day was a bit wet, kids giggled as they dashed between learning stations at the family event.

Jimmy Bugman coordinated the use of 75 rain gear suits that the kids donned to help stay dry.

The kids became knot experts learning to tie a very strong, but easy-to-tie, Palomar knot. Joe Mills, Joe Jemiolo and Joe Ruhland were the master knot mentors.

Teddy "Mister Dispey" Malota and Lake Erie Charter Captain Jerry May demonstrated step-



by-step skill-forming lessons to teach kids the art of casting, aiming for hula-hoop targets. Jerry May said, "some kids caught

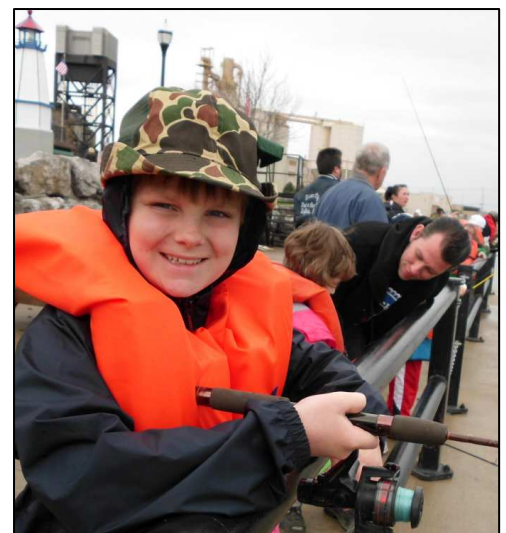
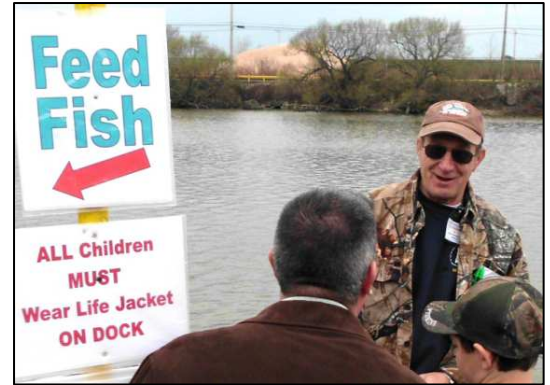
on real quick and launched the casting plugs so far they went into the trees! They're quick learners!"

At the Plastic Bait station, WNY Bassmaster Pro Angler, Scott Gauld, took the time to explain the in's and out's of no-fuss, plastic bait rigging. Kids threaded a plastic worm, plastic lizards, plastic jig tail and also learned how to fish with this artificial bait. No mess, no fuss! Mom's and dad's enjoyed this station too! The

plastic critters came from Bass Pro and kids loved to hear they could keep 'em.

The newest addition to the learning station trail was the United States Coast Guard. A 4-man team explained boat safety, shore fishing safety and showed the kids their 45-foot marine boat that forms part of the Homeland Security force.

Another new



learning station, "How-To-Fish" was taught by tournament winning angler, Paul Stoos. Kids learned about sinkers, hooks, slip bobbers and rigging bait to catch fish.

After completing the skill development stations, kids has a chance to use their new skills to cast and rig biats at the fishing pier. Master anglers, Chris Koch and Earl Farrell Jr. baited hooks, cleared snags and unhooked fish. The sturdy, new steel hand



railing at the pier provided an extra measure of safety for all visitors.

The youngsters were perfectly comfortable with their weather gear while fishing on the renovated \$90,000 Bison City fishing pier. Some kids fished for 10 minutes, others came to stay the day, using their own life preservers and raincoats with fish-towels clipped to their belts. Wow! Our kids are learning! 1,000 nightcrawlers were donated by Weekley's Bait Shop in Hamburg, New York.

Rock bass, bullheads, yellow perch and rainbow trout are the most-caught fish from the pier, proof that the Buffalo River is returning to green! All the fish were released alive back into the river.

All the fish-catching kids were declared automatic "rod/reel contest winners" at the conclusion of the session inside the club. Accompanied by a rousing round of applause, the "MC" Voice of Bison City, Dan Welch, offered his congratulations to each youth and each was awarded with their choice of a premium rod/reel outfit for their fishing success.

At the "Fish Feeding Station", Earl Farrel Sr. and Joe Gulczewski Jr, taught kids why the fingerling steelhead

were placed in the Bison city floating pens and showed how they are fed 4 times a day with high protein fish food



provided by NYSDEC. The water surface boiled with hungry fish at every feeding cycle! Some kdis giggled, others asked, "can I fish here?"

Dennis Smith and his hot dog crew grilled over 400 Sahlens hot dogs fast enough to keep the kids coming back for succulent seconds. Everyone loves a great hot dog!

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, Mustad Hooks, Schwebel's Bakery, Ted & Doraine Malota, Gwen Jozwiak (200 cupcakes), U.S. Coast Guard, Erie County Sheriff's Dept., Will Elliott - Buffalo news, Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Weekley's Bait, Bass Pro Shops and all the Bison City volunteers who showed the kids and parents how to have more fun in the outdoors through fishing.



Thanks TEAM!

Dave Barus 2010 event chairman