

Kids Fishing and Wardynski Hot Dogs...Go Together!

Fishing Fun with Kids at Bison City Rod & Gun Club, Buffalo, NY

May 19, 2019; 73 Kids, 216 Total Attendance; 36 Volunteers; 6-Learning Stations

By Forrest Fisher

Bright sunny skies pushed away early morning rain showers, then a warm 70 degree breeze brought kids and their families from Buffalo and Western New York to visit the Bison City Rod & Gun Club for the 15th Annual Jimmy Griffin Memorial Teach-Me-To-Fish event.

The Buffalo River waterfront today is clean, alive and hopping with kayaks, kids and fishing poles!

On this special day, kids brought their moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandpa's and grandpa's to learn how to find all the fun of fishing for the very first time.

Despite high water on Lake Erie, there was a steady flow of riverfront kayakers, canoes and power boats, and the Bison City fishing pier was

busy with "FISHING KIDS." Even single adults without kids came to discover the fun and adventure of "how-to-fish."

Karen Sieber, Linda Cooley, Rose Barus and Lynda Kollar energized the kids with a positive connection at the registration station.

Everyone met Western New York bass pro, Scott Gauld, for "How-To-Fish" secrets and "easy tips" to catch a fish with a rod and reel (bait or artificial



lure). People went away looking for the fishing pier!

Russ Johnson, Bob Carlson and Dieter Voss shared the simplicity of perfect knot tying, educating kids and parents on the Palomar Knot.

Alex Gauld and Katherine Voss provided lessons for rigging a plastic worm

or jig tail in easy terms. Each youth took a turn rigging their own bait, then each youth left with a souvenir plastic bait sample to fish with later and take home.

Environmental Conservation Officer Jeff Jondle clarified details about firearm safety and responsibility for parents and kids who experienced the new opportunity at the Cabela's BB-Gun Range, an inflated and fully enclosed, safe, "bounce house" style event.

Certified New York State Archery instructors worked with Earl Farrel, Sr., to provide first-time how-to lessons for kids at the Cabela's Archery Booth.

Fred Langdon and Ted Malota took extra time to teach kids how to cast a spincast fishing rod and casting plug. After a few minutes of instruction, the kids were sailing their hookless casting baits a toward hula-hoop targets with new confidence. Some kids have natural ability! Fun for all!

Fishing on the Bison City fishing



Fish On!



pier was fun, exciting and fruitful for many kids, with many thanks to Earl Farrel, Jr., for cleaning up the 150 foot long dock ahead of time. Several first-fish catches were recorded. Humbled mannered fishing educator, Collin Voss worked with Renee DeRouche, and Donna and Stacy Kayes to rig rods, reels, bobbers, hooks, split-shot and plenty of nightcrawler bait supplied by Weekley's Worms from Blasdell, NY, for use on the Bison City fishing pier. Thanks to Bob Roland,



Joe Mills, Raye Hanlon and Steve for their help and safety awareness instruction with the Sheriff's Marine Unit. All the kids wore a life preserver before fishing from the pier. Four different fish species of fish were caught by the kids who watched the fish swim in the aerated Lunker Pool on the pier. Kids that did not catch a fish still enjoyed watching fish swim around that others

caught. The girls caught more than the boys! All the fish were released alive.

As families completed their learning station tours, an 80 slide program indoors allowed for continued education. During the random raffle, more than 75 youths were awarded a free rod/reel combo, courtesy of Bison city and the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen. Everyone else, adults too, took home fishing maps, fishing tackle and deer tick /prevention info.

Every youth took home a fishing prize from the Bison City Tackle Treasure Chest. Steve Mills and Mike Smith fired up the grill to cook delicious Wardynski hot dogs enjoyed by all, Perry's Ice Cream provided by Bonnie Pelow and Maryann Botham topped off home-made "fish cake" from Gwen Jozwiak.



The kids and parents were ALL WINNERS!

*This special youth outreach event was sponsored and coordinated by the Bison City Rod & Gun Club with special thanks to Frank Wardynski & Son's (Hot Dogs), Cabela's, Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Weekley's Bait, Triple-S, Erie County Fish Advisory Board and 36 volunteers who donated their time to help our youth and their families learn more about the outdoors through the fun of fishing! **Thanks TEAM!***
Dave & Rose Barus, 2019 Program Chairpersons

