

# Boys and Girls Discover Fun of Outdoors...through Fishing

## East Aurora Fish & Game 2019 Teach-Me-To-Fish

**132 Kids; 351 in Attendance; 24 Volunteers; 420 Wardynski hot dogs, 600 slices of Watermelon!**

June 1, 2019; East Aurora, NY - Susan Gould and her staff signed up the kids at the Registration Station, providing a name tag and instructions for visitors that they needed to complete the five learning stations to be



Susan Gould and Ed busy at registration.

eligible for a free random rod/reel raffle at noon.

At the Knot-Tying Station, Dieter Voss and EAFG lifetime member, Russ Johnson, demonstrated the technique for tying a Palomar knot. All age groups seemed to master the process in very little time for this



Dieter Voss explains knot tying simplicity.

knot that connects the fishing line to the hook or lure.

At the Plastic Bait Learning Station, retired Environmental Conservation Officer, Jeff Jondle,



Jeff Jondle explains plastic baits and fishing.

provided a life lesson for kids to remember. He started with fish life and how fish live, what they eat, where they live and how they can be caught. Then he

explained how to catch fish with a demonstration of hooking-up plastic imitation baits. These are very effective in fooling a fish into thinking they are going to devour that next meal. Then the kids tried it, hooking up their own plastic baits. Each youth left with a free plastic bait sample, a smile and a sense of understanding about how to do this fishing thing without live worms.

John Bonanno and his team at the Casting Station



John Bonanno and team at the Casting Station

provided lessons where the kids learned to toss a light rubber lure from where they stood to a target hula hoop in the distance. It didn't take long. Experts were born every 3 minutes or so. Again, big smiles, a sense of fun and an eagerness to go fish was now embedded. It was plain to see.

At this point, some folks ran to the pond, but there was still one more important learning station, "Lyme Awareness." Sheri Voss, representing the WNY Lyme



Sheri Voss shares facts about Deer Ticks/Lyme disease.

Association with handouts and a program presentation on a 48-inch TV monitor, skits with play spiders and discussion provided details of how to stay safe from Lyme disease. They learned that Permethrin spray for clothes and Picaridin for skin can help keep folks protected, but that kids and parents need to stay aware at all times, even on local beaches. Deer ticks seem to be everywhere this year. The lessons were well learned.

The weather gods were kind and the forecast for rain and thundershowers stayed south of our fishing zone.



The sun made a 2-hour appearance and we needed to breakout the sunscreen! Was perfect!

Over the next few hours, the kids fished and enjoyed a ton of fish-catching. Tempe Smith caught the first



fish and rest of the kids followed after. Zoe Corcoran caught the most fish at 6. Mike Teleban caught the largest crappie at 10-3/8 inches, while Jack Bluman caught the largest bass at 9 inches. Each of these kids won a free rod/reel/gear package of their choice. There were 66 rods/reel rigs raffled off, all free to our youth attendees that

finished all 5 learning stations. \$3,000 value for the rod/reel rigs! Kids that didn't win in the rod/reel in the raffle went to the Tackle



Mike Smith (L) and Mike Teleban who caught the largest crappie at 10-3/8 inches

Treasure Chest. Every one of these kids caught a nice fishing prize from the treasure chest. It was big treasure chest!

The Wardynski hot dog cooking staff of Master Chef Ron Cecala, Shirley Stanton, Butch Betz and Wade made sure everyone had plenty to support the food line station run by Mary Bonanno and her crew. Everyone was well fed.

*This special youth outreach event was sponsored and coordinated by the East Aurora Fish & Game Club with special thanks to Wardynski Hot Dog's, Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Weekley's Bait, East Aurora Moose Lodge 370 and 24 dedicated EAFG volunteers who donated their time to help our youth and their families learn more about fun in the outdoors through fishing! Thanks EAFG/Moose TEAM! 2019 Program Chairpersons: Dave Barus and Jim Smith*



131 kids enjoyed the sunshine and pond shoreline during a wonderful day outdoors.