

Fishing Fun for Kids in Wayne County **19 years Devoted to Young Anglers**

The Wayne County Youth Derby held its 19th Annual Awards Ceremony at the Sodus Point Fire hall, Sunday, July 31 and over 40 people enjoyed the festivities.

Seventy-six young anglers registered with 37 catching fish during the two-month long contest. They were rewarded for their fishing prowess; receiving plaques, LNB gift certificates, prizes, and more importantly, applause from the adults and peers attending the ceremony.

Walt Crum was once again the main attraction for the youngsters when he displayed his “Balloon Art.” Crum has attended this event for the last six years and can twist and turn a balloon into any creature on earth. For this year’s awards he created a balloon fishing pole complete with a fish attached.

After a lunch of hotdogs, provided by the Paton’s Market Place, New York State Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) Kevin Thomas spoke to the attendees, especially thanking the parents that took the time to introduce the youngsters to fishing. “With all the electronic devices being used today, it’s more important than ever to get the kids outdoors.”

Dan Gilmore from the Wayne County Federation of Sportmen’s Clubs (WCFSC) acknowledged the winning youngsters who fished the summer derby. Robert Weichbrodt and his daughter Nancy Wilkes from McDonald’s of Wayne County, presented the trophies and plaques to young anglers.

The three winners of the Al Shultz Memorial Challenge in the 4-7 year age division were Marie Humbert, age six from Hilton, NY, Leah Jarvis, age four from Red Creek, NY and six year-old Parker Williamson from Lyons, NY.

In the Merchants Challenge Division ages 8-16, Madison Prutzman was the only youth who caught all five fish. (Pike, walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and perch)

Prutzman, the 16 year-old from Newark, has fished the Wayne County Youth Derby for over a decade and it was gratifying for everyone that she finished her last year with the grand prize. And the icing on the cake was she won a lifetime fishing license. Dave Schueler, from WCFSC drew the lucky winner. Every youngster who registers for the contest has a chance and the young Prutzman was that lucky angler.

The Wayne County Youth Derby is sponsored by the Wayne County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs and the Wayne County Derby Committee. For a complete list of sponsors and the official leaderboard see the county website at www.waynecountytourism.com Just click on Youth Derby box.