

Kids Korner



More than 380 children registered for the 32nd annual Youth Fish Day sponsored by Paradise Sportsmen Association and conducted on the David King farm, Paradise.

Kids Hooked On Trout Fishing

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PARADISE (Lancaster Co.) — Squeals of delight split the air as young fishermen landed trout along the stream banks of the John Fisher farm, Paradise.

Saturday, May 17, was the 32nd annual Youth Fish Day sponsored by the Paradise Sportsmen's Association, which

stocks the stream with 1,700 trout the evening before the big event.

"We want to get the kids back into fishing, and to learn respect for the stream," said Cindy Garber, a member of the association.

More than 380 youth registered for the event, despite the cool, damp weather.

An area of the stream was roped off for children less than five years old, and those 6-12

years of age fished in the open areas. Parents, friends, and sportsmen taught the children how to bait a hook, cast, and reel in catches.

"Hunting and fishing seem to be dying out," Garber said. "We want children to experience the joy of landing a fish. We also want them to learn the importance of keeping the land and streams clean so that fish multiply instead of die."

For many young ones, the Fishing Day was their first time fishing. Evident in the children's expressions, the day promised to be the start of a lifelong love for fishing.

One little girl with a yellow bucket named each of the fish she caught.

Registration began at 7:30 a.m. Fishing started at 9 a.m. Competition ended at noon, although some families continued to fish.

The largest fish snagged by the 5-years-and-under division was a 22-inch long trout caught by Brandon Shiffleft, 2, of Kinzers. His uncle Rob Shiffleft helped reel in the winner.

In the 6 to 12 year-old category, Raymond Lapp, 12, Gordonville, caught a 20½-inch trout to win a large trophy and tackle box.



Trophies and tackle boxes go to the winners of the largest fish. Two-year-old Brandon Shiffleft, Kinzers, with the help of his Uncle Rob Shiffleft, claimed the prize for the under 5-year-old category, with a trout that measures 22 inches long. Twelve-year-old Raymond Lapp, Gordonville, caught a 20½-inch long trout to capture first place in the 6 to 12-year-old division.

Free lunches of hot dogs, chips, and drink were served to the children who registered.

The event is free, but raffle tickets are sold to help fund the event. Community businesses contribute many of the prizes awarded. All proceeds go to stock fish nurseries, to feed fish, and to purchase stock for the following year.

Garber said that last year's drought caused the stream supply water to the trout nursery to stop flowing and killed the trout. On Jan. 18, the association purchased young trout from another source. The trout were fed a quick-grow diet in order to speed up their growth in time for Fish Day.

"This was an unanticipated expense that local businesses and residents and even some out-of-

state businesses donated generously," Garber said.

The event is scheduled annually on the third Saturday in May, and conducted rain or shine. Children attend from as far away as Philadelphia.



Children who experience the fun of fishing also are taught the importance of keeping streams and riverbanks clean.



Family members share the joy of fishing.



Children were almost guaranteed to land a big one since the stream had been stocked the evening before with 1,700 trout.



These fish measure almost as large as the tot who caught them.



This expression shows the joy of fishing.



Even the services of cleaning fish were free to children who registered for the event.