



Lake Vesuvius Kid's Fishing Derby 2007

After seven years, a Kid's Fishing Derby was again held at Lake Vesuvius! Over 170 children came out to attend the event and learn more about fishing.



A kid happily waits to catch the big one at the 2007 Lake Vesuvius Kid's Fishing Derby.

The Kid's Fishing Derby has returned to Lake Vesuvius in 2007. Once held as an annual event the derbys were suspended when the lake was drained for dam restoration work in 2001. The lake refilled in 2004 and now the kid's fishing derby is back after seven years.

The 2007 Kid's Fishing Derby at Lake Vesuvius was held on Saturday, June 16. The derby had a great turnout, with over 170 kids participating. The weather was more than cooperative, as the sun decided to show up and make for a great fishing day. The derby was hosted by the Wayne National Forest, in partnership with the Ohio

University- Southern Nature Center, Lawrence County Bass Club, Ironton Kiwanis, Isaac Walton League, Ohio Division of Watercraft, and the Southeast Ohio EMS.

This year's fishing contests were for the biggest (heaviest) fish, most fish caught, and the casting contest. Mikey Cremeans had a noteworthy day in the 0-7 age group, catching a total of nineteen fish which gave him the overall tie with Austin Blair who was the winner in the 8-11 age group. First through third place prizes were given out for every age group in each category. There were also bonus prizes given out for notable good deeds.

The Kiwanis cooked hot dogs during the afternoon festivities, while the Nature Center provided the kids and families with a snake presentation. Smokey Bear made an appearance and entertained the non-fishing crowd. The derby turned out to be well worth all the hard work and planning that was put into it. Kari Kirschbaum, Ironton district biologist said, "I was thrilled by the number of kids that showed up. Seeing the smiles on their faces after they brought their fish up to get weighed was gratifying. Hopefully the years to come will be as successful and fun as this year's derby."

A special thank-you to some of the local businesses for donating food and supplies: C & C Grocery, Vic's Bait-Tackle Shop, 7-UP Bottling Company, the Tackle Box, Wal-Mart and an anonymous donor.

For more information contact Paul Widowski at 740-534-6500