



SC REEL KIDS NEWS

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Volume 4 Number 1

Youth Fishing Time...

It is time to get out those rods and reels to get ready for our great "Youth Fishing Events" held around our state. The list of dates will be available soon, so check the web site at www.screelkids.com for the location of the event nearest you. The events usually start around the month of May. You can learn to fish, win prizes, hang out with your friends and family, and maybe even catch the big one!



Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic



Join us for the 21st Annual Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic, March 18th-20th at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia. There is an SC Reel Kids Catch and Release



SC Reel Kids at the Catch 'n Release Fishing Pond

Fishin' Pond, kids activities, the Bass Tub (5,500 gallon aquarium with largemouth and striped bass), the Take One, Make One Outdoor Heritage Trailer, and tons more! Adults are only \$6 and children under 10 are free. Bring 5 cans of non-perishable food for Harvest Hope Food Bank and get \$1 off your adult admission. PLUS, visit the SC Reel Kids booth and show your SC Reel Kids license for a GREAT gift! Get ready for a wild weekend!

*Mom and Dad, if you would like to volunteer at the Classic, contact BeBe Harrison at harrisonn@dnr.sc.gov for information.

Reel Art

Don't forget to work on your "Reel Art" entry! Check the website to find out what type of fish your work of art should include.



Emmanuel Ramirez

Manning High School, Best of Show

Mail your artistic creations by March 1. You can win great prizes by entering your artwork in the contest. The first place winners in each category win a \$200 savings bond! The best of show winner will receive a \$500 savings bond! Prizes include fishing rods, tackle, art supplies, and more! Winners will be on display at the Southeastern Wildlife Expo and the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic. You can see all the winners from last year and find the entry form at www.screelkids.com!

A list of fish species is available on the website as well as the fishes of the Congaree River (for students grades 10-12). A slide show with some of these fish can be found on the SCDNR website at www.dnr.state.sc.us in the "Fishing" section. The first SC Reel Kid who can identify one of the creeks by name that

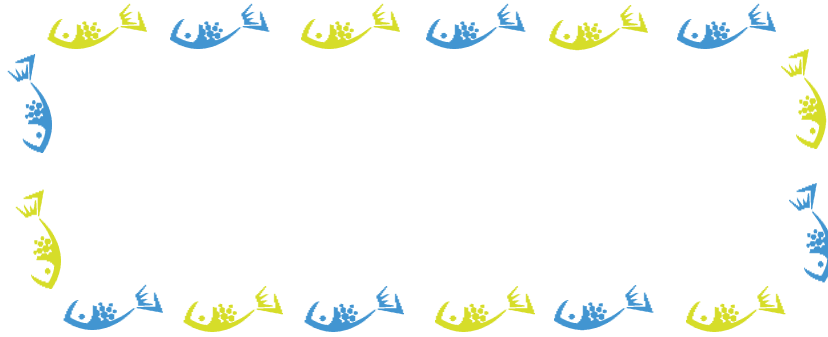


Lauren Lowery, Crossroads Middle,
First Place, 4th-6th Grade

was sampled in the Congaree National Swamp will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Wildlife Shop. Congratulations to William Higgenbottom for answering the last trivia question correctly!

Hey Mom. . .

Becoming an Outdoors Woman Weekend Workshop at Clemson Outdoor Lab, May 20-22. You can sign up for classes on outdoor activities such as fishing, archery, firearms, kayaking and nature photography. Check out www.dnred.com for more information.



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Ten Tips for a Fun Fishing Trip



(An excerpt from Coastal Angler Magazine) Fishing takes technique, gear, and patience! Having a fun and safe fishing trip can be a wonderful



When on the water, don't forget your Pfd - they float - you don't!

way to spend time with your family. You can even teach your family a thing or two! Here are some tips to help you have a great trip.



1. Proper tackle-Smaller hooks and bobbers mean a greater chance for success. Remember, you can catch a big fish on a small hook, but you can't catch a small fish with a big hook! Smaller hooks may lead to more nibbles on your line.
2. Bait-Live bait is generally your best bet for success on your fishing trip. Show your mom or dad how to put a worm on their hook!
3. Food-Food is extremely important. Don't forget to pack some snacks and drinks for your fishing trip. Napkins are optional, but don't forget to bring back all of your trash so it doesn't become litter.
4. Camera-A picture of your prize catch is a wonderful way to share this experience with your friends and family. Even if you don't catch a fish, you can capture your fishing trip on film!
5. Life jacket-In a boat especially, or near water, a life jacket is a must. It will save your life.
6. Sunscreen-The sun can be reflected from the water, so put on your sunscreen and keep reapplying!
7. Insect repellent-Bugs can ruin a fishing trip so defend yourself!
8. Location-Pick a spot that is close to home or where you are staying.
9. Timing-Pick a time (if you can) that is not too hot or cold. Enjoy yourself and relax. You'll know when it is time to go.
10. Patience-Be patient while you are fishing. You might not catch something on the first or even fifth cast. Just relax and enjoy being outside with your friends and family. And remember, it's called "fishing", not "catching"!

