

Dear Editor:

The Pompton Lakes Take Me Fishing Derby was wonderful!

What a great day, even though the threat of heavy rain was in the forecast. The Take Me Fishing Derby committee waited with baited breath for the rain to stop and at 5:30 am the call to the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife was made. It's a GO! Although it was still raining by the Pequest Hatchery, the truck was loaded and on the road by 6:00 am. By 8:00am there were 54 children registered. Some came from as far away as Fishkill, NY. The event presentation by New Jersey Fish and Wildlife was attended by at least 120 people. This is the Second Take Me Fishing Derby held in Pompton Lakes and there will be more to come. This is a great way for a child to learn, understand and implement good fishing habits and stewardship of our waterways.

With the dedication of the Derby Organizers, The Pompton Lakes Democratic Organization, The State of New Jersey Fish and Wildlife and the people and businesses who sponsored us; what a great day!

A BIG THANK YOU goes to Karen Murphy & The Pompton Lakes Recreation Commission, Capt. Phil Kozak, Ruthann's Reliable Catering, Dr. George Cattiny, The Country Sportsman, R&M Hardware, Central Park Auto Body, 002 Auto Parts, Frank's Pizza, J.C.S, Frank's Tackle, P.B.M. Supply, The Cutting Edge, Konner Chevrolet, Snap-On-Tools, Bella Casa Pizza, and NJ Kopware for donated shirts, time, funding and equipment

A FEW FAST FACTS: The Wanaque River was stocked the night before the event with approximately 300 trout. The children caught at least 23 fish in less than four hours. The largest fish caught was 17 plus inches and one young man hooked one of the two 26 inch trout that were stocked, but that was "the one that got away".

Hope to see you next year. Have a safe summer and please take a child fishing. You will be glad you did.

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