

2nd Annual Youth Fishing Day - Old Forge, New York

On Monday, July 16, 2012, ECO Russell Ritzel held the second annual youth summer recreation fishing day in Old Forge New York. The event is sponsored by the New York Conservation officers association.

A total of 31 fish were caught and released, a lunch was provided and the kids participated in ECO Ritzel's 2nd annual coloring contest.

The day is started off with ECO Ritzel welcoming the kids to the youth fishing day. The youngsters were told by ECO Ritzel, "if you allow me to take you fishing today you will fish for a day, but if I teach you to fish, you will fish for a lifetime". They were then divided into two groups. One group fished and the other group participated in the coloring contest. The two groups switched activities after about forty five minutes.



The coloring contest consisted of the kids coloring a picture of an ECO teaching a child to fish. The winners were picked by ECO Ritzel

ECO Ritzel provided a fishing pole kit with lures purchased with his own money to the first place winner. The other two fishing poles for second and third place were purchased by the Town with the funds received from NYCOA.

ECO Ritzel was able to round up some volunteers to help with the event. Each of the volunteers was provided an Environmental Conservation Police polo shirt that ECO Ritzel purchased from NYCOA. The volunteers consisted of Roy Smith, a local native and sportsman from New Hartford, New York, Ronald G Ritzel, (father of ECO Russ Ritzel) MacKenzie Ritzel (son of ECO Russ Ritzel) and Amanda Velzis who works out of the Utica DEC office for the fish and wildlife department.

The Old Forge summer recreation program staff consisted of: Holly Armemndola - rec director, Chelsea Hanford-play school director, Marissa Pavlus - rec aid, Abbie Wilard - rec aid, Charlie Hanford – rec aid, Allison Frey – rec aid, and Ryan Borwick – rec aid.



A check for two hundred dollars was presented on behalf of the New York Conservation Officers Association to Ted Riehle the Town of Webb Supervisor. Also present for the presentation was Nanci Russell, the Town clerk, and Chelsea Hanford, summer rec director.