

Catfish fishing is fast becoming the focus of Fishing Contests on the Hudson River

by John H. Vargo, Publisher

In many parts of the United States, especially in the south, catfish have always been a much stronger target for fisherman than in the northeast. They grow to gigantic proportions, are easy to catch and usually survive to be returned to the river to be caught another day.

In the Hudson River this has only recently been the case. The catfish contest held each year in Catskill, NY to raise money for United Way of Columbia and Green Counties and managed by Brad Poster are fast becoming an annual tradition. Further the Hudson River Fisherman Association has developed a team of personnel that now supports at least five specific catfish contests each year, including volunteering to support the Columbia Green United Way Contest on July 15th, 2017. They not only provide volunteers but free, high quality fishing rods and reels for use by anyone throughout the day!

One of the main reasons that this is happening is the well-organized and serious prize that these fun events provide. In the United Way Contest in Catskill, NY the top prize is a new truck from Sawyer Chevrolet, and a new boat, motor and trailer from Riverview Marine. The New York State record is 35 lbs.; 20 oz. caught this spring in Lake Ontario, New York. In addition first place will receive 1500 dollars cash. As in all of these contests special prizes are given out to children to promote the concept of fishing in the Hudson River as well as keep traditional fishing alive for future generations.

In last years United Way Contest the big winner of the contest was Greg W. Clause with a fish 35.5 inches long and weighing 28 pounds. He won a \$500 cash prize.

The United Way contest successfully raised 14,000 dollars that was distributed to United Way supported groups in Columbia and Greene Counties. The 2017 contest to be held on July 15th is well ahead of any previous registrations. This is a fund day for everyone, held at Dutchman's Landing Park that includes free food, music and all sorts of giveaways for children.

It is only with these recent contests that the growth of two of the species of catfish the White catfish and the channel catfish are growing in size each year. My personal experience proves this and these catfish contests underline that fact.



DATE:
Saturday, July 15, 2017
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

12:01 a.m.: Fishing Begins
10:00 a.m.: Festivities Begin
1:00 p.m.: Kid's Casting Contest
2:00 p.m.: Entries End
2:15 p.m.: ALL Prizes awarded

LOCATION:
Fish anywhere on the Hudson River.
Measuring Station & Festivities at Dutchman's Landing,
Catskill, NY

REGISTRATION FEE:
\$15.00 Per Person. Must be registered to win a prize.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
Registration for the contest closes Friday, July 14, 2017 at 11:00 p.m. and no one will be able to register on the 15th.

