

River Day 2022

Croton Yacht Club

by Dennis Kooney

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Croton Yacht Club membership, and all others, who participated in the preparation and execution of the most successful Hudson River Day since its inception in 2009. I would also like to thank the community for supporting this important event.

The model of providing a full educational and interactive experience centering around the history and ecology of the river coupled with our partnership with the Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA) has evolved into the most unique and successful event of its kind on the river.

Thanks to the HRFA, the youth fishing contest was again a home run. Seventy-one children registered and participated in the event throughout the day with a variety of fish caught. First place was awarded to Lila Nicholson who caught a 20" channel catfish, second place went to Isabella Sehnall and third place to John Bracciante. Fifteen fishing rod and reel combinations were awarded throughout the day to participants, which were donated by the Croton Yacht Club. The happiness and excitement of those receiving awards were dwarfed by those children who caught the first fish of their lifetime.



The food was outstanding and the chowder pot was drained to the last drop. Special thanks to representatives from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Riverkeeper, Clearwater, Scenic Hudson, the Croton Historical Society, Village of Croton Police Department, Ferry Sloops, the Hudson River Boat and Yacht Club organization and again the Hudson River Fishermen's Association for their participation and for their engaging and educational exhibits.

Chris Letts, renowned naturalist, once again captivated the audience at the "touching table" where the children could see, touch and smell some of the river's two hundred thirty-six different fish species. Our viewing tanks provided a unique look into the underwater world of the river. Thank you to Croton

Police Department Officers who exhibited the Village Police Boat and provided boat rides and also to members of "Ferry Sloops" for providing a free sailing experience on a picture-perfect day.

Special thanks go out to Joe Demarchis from the Westerly Marina who donated a new Mercury 3.5HP outboard to the Yacht Club's college scholarship fundraiser. Raffle tickets can be purchased by contacting Dennis Kooney at 914-907-3622 or by email to dennis@kooney.net.

As Croton Yacht Club members, we take pride in providing this experience to the community. As parents and grandparents, we take comfort in knowing our children and grandchildren are being afforded an opportunity to make a life changing connection to the river we all love.



Chris Letts, renowned naturalist with his fascinating specimens of Hudson River life.



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