

Prizes, Cash, Fishing and Giving: The United Way “Leo Lasher” Catfish Derby July 21, 2018

Dutchman’s Landing, Catskill, NY

“One of the best fishing contests on the Hudson River”!

Fishing for the love of fishing is what most of us on the water get from angling. Fishing for a great cause adds to the joy and fun.

This July 21st is the eighth year that the United Way “Leo Lasher” Catfish Derby is being held. What started very small, with just thirty eight people has grown into a community outreach benefiting dozens of local non-profit programs.

In just the last three years, the United Way “Leo Lasher” Catfish Derby has funded over forty eight programs and put over \$40,000.00 back into the community.

“We have prizes for all ages from the tiniest fishermen to the first prize of \$1,500.00 cash on the spot”, said Brad Poster, Executive Director of the United Way of Columbia and Greene Counties. “We encourage all fishermen from the “professional” to the families who get their kids up early and across the finish line.

The first prize has grown significantly to \$1,500.00 due in part from donations from Sequence Development, The Bank of Greene County and the ‘Event Chairman’ Perry Lasher.

The person who enters the longest “live” Channel Catfish of the day will be handed fifteen \$100.00 bills. Prizes in the next nine places in the Adult Category include fishing gear (rods, reels and tackle) as well as ice chests and such.

The top prize in the kid’s category is a brand new bicycle and the next nine winners can also win fishing gear, kid size life vests, movie passes and more.



Every kid (12 years and under) who enters the Ed’s Kids Casting Contest sponsored by Ed Herrington’s Lumber will take home a prize from the prize table, and a French Fry coupon from McDonalds. Even the three smallest catfish wins a prize!

“We started the “Team Challenge” when Captain Bob Lewis with Fins and Grins Charter Fishing contributed “A Day of Charter Fishing” for a prize. When four fishermen register as a team, the combined lengths of four catfish will determine the winner

The “big deal” for the fisherman who sets the New York State Record for a Channel Catfish is a new Village Dodge Pickup truck, with a new Boat, Motor and Trailer from Riverview Marine Services in Catskill.

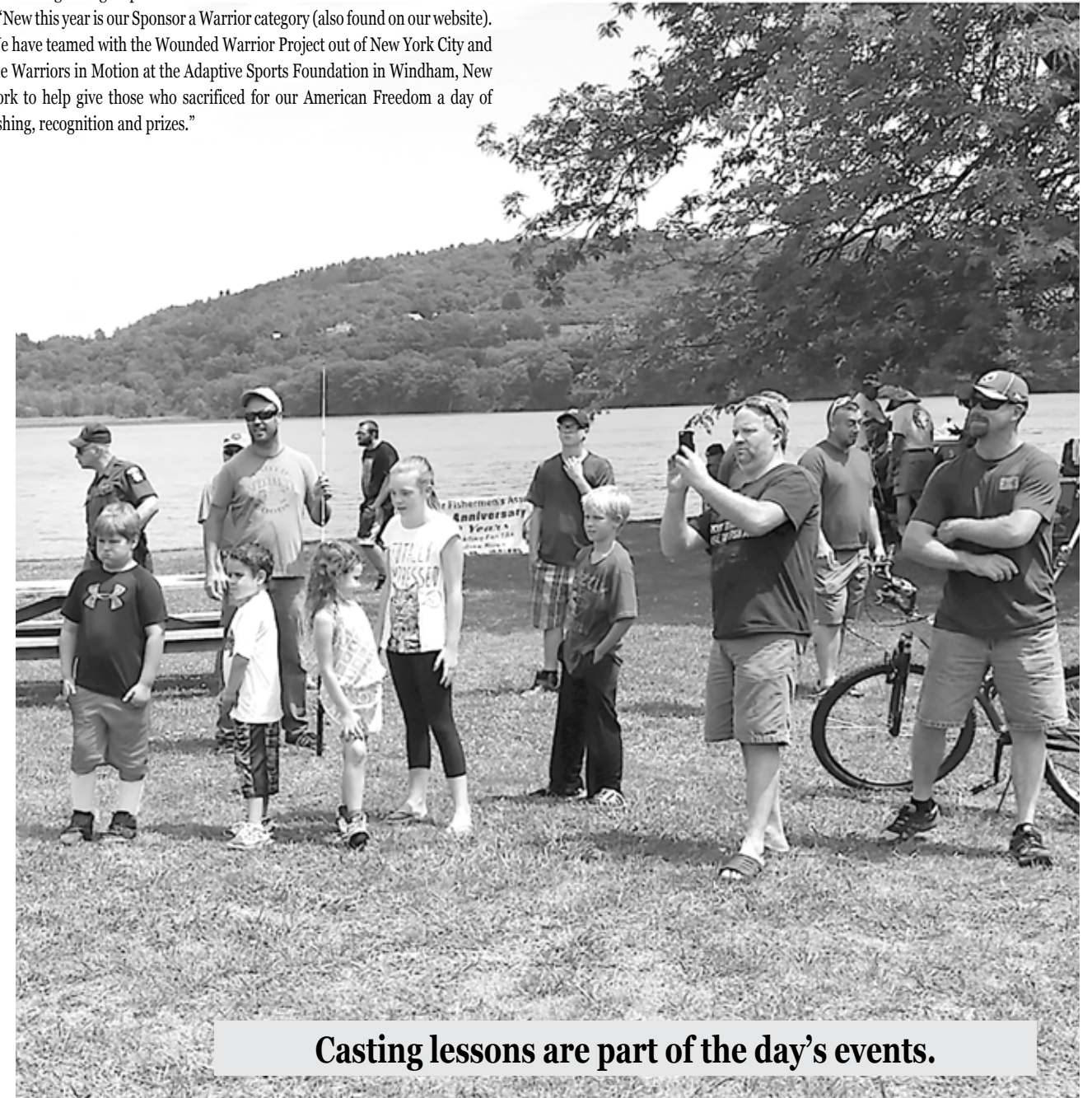
“Each year the Catfish Derby is a host to many individuals with developmental disabilities”, Brad Poster continues; “By registering on the website at www.unitedwaycatfishderby.com people can Sponsor a Child of their own or a kids who belongs to a group.”

“New this year is our Sponsor a Warrior category (also found on our website). We have teamed with the Wounded Warrior Project out of New York City and the Warriors in Motion at the Adaptive Sports Foundation in Windham, New York to help give those who sacrificed for our American Freedom a day of fishing, recognition and prizes.”

Many have asked - *Who was Leo Lasher?*

“Sounds too simple... but Dad loved to fish. So do I...and I always wanted to do a tourney in his honor.” said Perry Lasher, The Bank of Greene County, Senior Vice President, Commercial Lending. Perry’s father passed away in 1999 and they shared a love for at least a couple of life’s treasures including fishing. Four years ago, in an endeavor to honor his father he became Event Chairman the United Way of Columbia and Greene Counties Leo Lasher Catfish Derby.

“The biggest prize of all goes to me” finishes Brad Poster. “Watching the joy on the faces of the families, the kids and the volunteers who make this event a family destination in beautiful Dutchman’s Landing Park is the greatest feeling. Allocating the United Way funds to improve the lives of people in Columbia and Greene Counties is a “mission well done”.



Casting lessons are part of the day’s events.