



Kevin Kovacs, ten years old, with his 27-½ inch Catfish was the overall winner

The Leo Lasher United Way of Greene/ Columbia Counties Catfish Derby

\$1,500 went to overall winner Kevin Kovacs, for taking first place in the Leo Lasher Catfish Derby on Saturday July 21, 2018. Kevin was saluted by a standing ovation of clapping hands as he was awarded the cash for his efforts.

The Leo Lasher United Way of Greene/Columbia Counties Catfish Contest has grown to over 500 people fishing in this eighth annual event.

Held on the Hudson River at a beautiful Catskill Park with a huge free boat ramp, the simple effort of catching a catfish, weighing it in, and then releasing it had drawn wide applause from all segments of society.

Brad Poster, Executive Director of Unite Way said, "if we do not focus on children, the outdoors, parents, then what else is there. This contest brings it all together and I love it!"

"Each year the profits from the Catfish Derby are allocated to local (Columbia and Greene Counties) non-profits to help fund programs such as after school programs, food pantries, substance abuse programs, etc." said Brad Poster, Director of the United Way of Columbia and Greene Counties. "It will be weeks until we know the final figures from this 2018 event. In just the last three years the Catfish Derby has returned over \$40,000.00 to the community by funding over fifty (50) local programs."



Matt Luvera (left) Greene County Legislator representing the Town and Village of Catskill who presented the letter from NYS Assemblyman Chris Tague and three of his students. Brad Poster, Executive Director on right,

There was 185 catfish caught with the majority released after being measured. Here is the complete list of winners

Youth Category:

1. Hunter Maderic 25 ¾
2. Christopher Malchow 23 ¾
3. Suvin Sampal 23 ½
4. Myla Meacher 22 ½
5. Mason Tammburro 21 ¾
6. Alex Meacher 21 ½
7. Lucas Hoffman 21
8. Sovanie Sampal 20 ¼
9. John Krupp 20 ¼
10. Chloe Kraft 20

Adult Category

1. Mike Rowan 27"
2. Kevin Decker 27"
3. Jeremy Jason 27"
4. Gerard Uhrik 27"
5. Ken Beattie 27"
6. Dan Smith 26 ¼"
7. Chad Bornt 26 ¼"
8. Mike Riley 26 ¼"
9. Aaron Meacher 26"
10. Scott Mary 26"

Team Competition

(Combined lengths of four fish)

1. Bad Luck Daily 43 ½"
2. Two Indians 46 ¼"
3. Team Schmatz 88 ¾"
4. Prestige WW 46 ¼"
5. Team Brass 71 7/8"
6. Bone Collectors 59 ½"
7. Jansen Fishing Fanatics 81"
8. Team Terrell 64 ½"
9. Team Badger 64 1/2"
10. Team Fish On 91 ¼"
11. Cashin Kitty 61 ½"
12. Catfish Hunter 66 ½"
13. Don't Sink the Boat 69"
14. Team 518 Fishing 91 ½"

Brad Poster, Executive Director and his management staff added categories this year that created a broader perspective of the entire event.

SPONSOR A WARRIOR

This year was the initiation of the "Wounded Warriors" category.

The United Way of Columbia and Greene Counties together with The Wounded Warrior Project and Adaptive Sports Foundation "Warriors in Motion" Program (Windham, NY)

ADAPTIVE SPORTS FOUNDATION

The Adaptive Sports Foundation's Warriors in Motion program provides wounded warriors with a basic knowledge of wellness and the importance of practicing lifelong healthful living. Warriors engage in sports, outdoor activity, and recreation. In addition, warriors are encouraged to investigate how the physical self is tied to the emotional/psychological self, as well as how state-of-mind can affect the physical body. The Adaptive Sports Foundation is also a national program provider for Wounded Warrior Project's Physical Health and Wellness division.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

With the mission to honor and empower Wounded Warriors, WWP is the hand extended to encourage warriors as they adjust to their new normal and achieve new triumphs. Offering a variety of programs and services, WWP is equipped to serve warriors with every type of injury – from the physical to the invisible wounds of war.

IRON HORSE CIGAR DEPOT

The Iron Horse Cigar Depots owners decided to get involved with the Windham Mountain, Adaptive Sports Foundation, Warriors in Motion programs after they learned that a large portion of the funding they once received had been significantly reduced. "I think it's incumbent of the success of all small businesses to give back to their local communities as a show of thanks to their clientele," said Roy Brown owner of the Iron Horse Cigar Depot in Hudson NY. "We've chosen to help the Warriors in Motion programs as veterans helping veterans, plain and simple." Roy and his wife Nicky are both veterans of the U. S. Air Force and believe that running a small business and giving back to the community is the right thing to do and have dedicated themselves to helping raise funds for the Adaptive Sports Foundation, Warriors in Motion programs.



The Hudson River Fishermans Association was present with over 7 volunteers, and fishing rods, reels and bait for those that did not bring their own.



Unique to this event was this rare Spotted Catfish. There had not been another seen since 2014 contest.