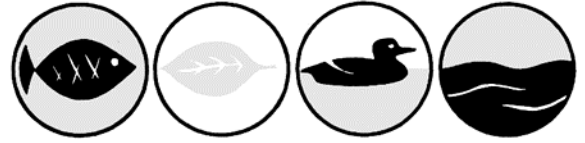


N.I.C.C.



February 2019 Newsletter

Fifty-nine years and counting. The derby is just around the corner and it looks like we will have ice this year.

Please remember to send your raffle ticket money in before the derby. If you need more tickets, please call a board member.

This year N.I.C.C. received donations and ads from businesses that are new to our derby. Our website has helped us tremendously by informing viewers about our organization. Speaking of the website, have you visited it lately? Take a look at it, (www.mynicc.org) and see the terrific designing Judith Kallos of IStudio has done with it. Thanks Judith.

AUCTION ITEMS We are always looking for auction items for the children and adult auctions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at the kids games, runners during the derby, bucket raffle table, set up on Friday Feb. 8th and tear down of headquarters on Monday Feb. 11th. Please contact one of the board members if you can lend a hand.



Our major sponsors this year

Antioch Chamber of Commerce **Antioch Auto Parts**
Kloss Distributors of Miller Coors **Musky Tales/Time to Bite**

Ad book sponsors and donations as of 1/26

Antioch Fine Wine & Liquor * Body Craft * Dunkin Donuts * Express Care * The Vegas Café * Antioch Pizza
Pickard China * Elsie Mae's Canning & Bakery * Leonard Dane * St. Croix of Park Falls, Ltd * Thelen Materials
Linda & Bryan Krusmark * Antioch Cyclery * Triangle Sports & Marine * Patty Bellack * Bonnie Letich
Ken & Laura Golonka * A to Z Rental * Chili's * Buffalo Wild Wings * Mr. G's Sandwich Shop * Jimano's Pizza
Heartland Bank & Trust * The Law Offices of David Del Re * State Bank of the Lakes * Wake to Wood * Piggly Wiggly
Ross & Sue Musumeci * Robinson Wholesale, Inc * Texas Roadhouse * Leo J. Fox Trucking * Jewel Osco-Wauconda
Polson's Natural Foods * Diemer Plumbing & Excavating, Ltd. * Drumm Family * Rosatia's Pizza * Play It Again Sports
Mellen Septic * Bill & Jessie Smergalski * Ultimate Car Wash * Jim & Diane Waldow * Hooters

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 8 Derby Setup

Volunteers needed – contact Ken Golonka

February 9-10 Derby Days

Volunteers needed – contact Ken Golonka

February 11 Teardown

Volunteers needed – contact Ken Golonka

February's monthly general/board meeting is canceled.

This article was posted in the News-Sun

Conservation club encourages outdoor fun at fishing derby

Families can fish, toss eggs, win prizes, and get fresh air by the lake at annual festival in Antioch

After a mild first half of January, Leonard Dane rejoiced when he saw the weather report — snow and frigid temperatures were predicted at least through the end of the month. That meant there'd likely be great ice fishing for the 59th annual Chain O'Lakes Fishing Derby and Winter Festival, set for Feb. 9 and 10 and sponsored by the Northern Illinois Conservation Club.

Though plenty of seasoned fishermen seek to catch the biggest fish at the derby, the event really is more about family fun, getting outdoors and learning to fish, said Dane, the club's president. Proceeds benefit the club as well as pay for scholarships for local high school children, he said.

Hourly awards will be given for the biggest and the smallest fish in 10 categories. Even a 5-year-old who catches a 2-inch long fish has the chance to win a prize. Families also can participate in gunny sack races and egg tosses out on the frozen landscape as well as Sunday afternoon auctions, including one designed especially for youngsters.

No registration is required. Those who want to enter their fish into the contest purchase a ticket for \$3 (or two for \$5), then get their catch measured to see if they won. All tickets purchased go into a raffle held toward the end of the two-day event where participants can win more prizes.

The event is headquartered at the recently shuttered Thirsty Turtle building, where folks can go inside to have their fish measured. They can go anywhere on the Chain O' Lakes to fish, but need to return to the headquarters to get their catch measured, Dane said.

Advanced fishermen have their special spot on the Chain for musky or other catches and quietly go off to reel in what they hope is a big one. Beginning fishermen, including youngsters, often hang around the headquarters where they can get help and find someone to open a spot of ice for them. Two types of live bait will be available for sale, and participants need to bring their own fishing gear.

"Usually around 10 minutes before the hour, folks come with their catches, look at the bulletin board to see the largest and smallest and decide if they want to enter," Dane said. Winners are announced on the hour from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both days.

Prizes in the past have included fishing lures, tackle boxes, minnow buckets and first aid kits, he said. Last year's biggest catch was a 28-inch catfish. The smallest was a 3.5-inch bluegill.

When there are enough kids around, gunny sack races and egg tosses will be held. Adults can join in if they want, Dane said. Food will be available for purchase, including beef sandwiches and hot dogs, he said.

After the final 2 p.m. winners are announced on Sunday, live auctions will be held. The first will be for children and includes items such as dolls, stuffed animals and remote-control trucks.

"This is fun for the kids. A lot of the items start at a quarter and go up, depending on how much the parents will let them spend," Dane said. In the past the adult auction has featured patio coolers, patio chairs, fishing trips, items with team logos and gift certificates to local restaurants. Local businesses donate the prizes, Dane said.

The club offer educational programs throughout the year at its grounds in Antioch, which features hiking trails and a pond. The programs are free and open to the public and include family days where youngsters and adults can learn archery or about animals living in the wild, Dane said.

“In addition to promoting our club and getting our name out there for the derby, we want people to get out in the winter, to get outside and enjoy the outdoors,” he said. In the past few years, it seems fewer people are participating in outdoor activities, Dane said. The festival and derby, he said, is an incentive for adults and children to enjoy the outdoors in winter.

59th Annual Chain O’ Lakes Fishing Derby and Winter Festival

Time: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 9 and 10

Location: Turtle Beach, Channel Lake, 42273 S. Woodbine Ave., Antioch

Tickets: \$3 per fish entry

Information: 262-496-3021; mynicc.org/

Sheryl DeVore is a freelance reporter for the News-Sun.

