

**Roaring River's Back to School Kids'  
Fishing Day  
August 16, 2008**



We had one of the best Kids' Fishing Day events ever August 16, 2008. The temperature was cool (in the low 80's) and no rain. There was also a record attendance for the fall event with 1,265 kids. The previous record was in August 2005 with 1,214 attending. The biggest fish (7.44 lbs.) and the biggest stringer (12.3 lbs.) of the day were caught by Lee Ann Iott, age 14, from Summersville, Missouri. The biggest fish (6.56 lbs.) in the boy's division was caught by Wesley Iso, age 13, from Dallas Texas. He and his father learned about Roaring River's Kids' Day on the internet and decided to travel from Dallas to attend.



*Lee Ann Iott, 14 Summersville Mo, winner of girl's big fish and big stringer.*



Wesley Iso, 13 Dallas Texas, winner of boy's big fish.

Another interesting story was that former Roaring River Park Superintendent, Kevin Bolling, who is now Kansas City Operations Manager

for the Department of Natural Resources brought around 30 inner city Kansas City kids to attend Roaring River's Event. Kevin made the comment "The volunteers were wonderful, they spent some quality time with the kids we brought down. A couple of them came to me and commented on how good it was to have our group and they thoroughly enjoyed being able to help the kids fish." Most of Kevin's group did catch fish. They were also treated to a fish fry by Gary Shoemaker, retired MDC employee, at Camp Smokey.



Yolanda Jones from Kansas City and volunteer Steve Allgood from Joplin.

We have wonderful volunteers and staff from MDC, DNR, and Roaring River Concession help. Our volunteers come from as close as Cassville and as far away as Louisiana. Everyone works very hard and basically owns and takes responsibility for the event. They care deeply and believe in our Kids' Fishing Days. Parents, Grandparents, and others spend quality time with their kids during the day. Our classes and events plant the

conservation seeds, as well as a better understanding of fishing, and spark an interest in many other outdoor activities in the kids.

New to the class schedule this time was fish identification with the use of Maramec Hatchery's mobile aquarium. This 5' x 10' trailer had three 30 gallon tanks equipped with filters, oxygen, and a chiller. Wes Swee did several classes teaching kids to identify some of the numerous species of fish exhibited which were collected from the Big Piney River. These included longnose gar, drum, smallmouth bass, goggle-eye and many others. The fish were already used to seeing a lot of humans since the fish and aquarium had also been exhibited at the Phelps County Fair the previous week. Wes did a great job, and the exhibit was very popular.



Maramec Assistant Hatchery Manager Wes Swee's Fish Identification Class.

Dave Pearson from Savannah Mo. did a class in which he talked about dog training. He had an exceptionally well trained Labrador that would respond to both voice and hand signal commands.



*Dave Pearson's dog training exhibit.*

