

Annual Great Pond Youth Event

On May 16th Millennium Bass along with members from Western Maine Anglers, hosted its annual youth event on Great Pond in Belgrade. It was the second year we paired up with students from Messalonskee High School as they were treated to a fun day of tournament fishing, capped off by a barbecue fit for any hungry angler. All students were outfitted with a rod and reel and more tackle than they knew what to do with. Each club member spent time with each student, on the water, teaching the young anglers the art of tournament bass fishing. For some, the thrill of the day was coaxing a giant, bedding smallie to bite, and successfully landing it in the boat. For others it was the high-speed, exhilarating ride in a tournament rigged bass boat. Lastly, there were those that simply relished in the BBQ. At the end of the day, each student learned a little more about fishing, nature, and conservation, and walked away with a smile on their face and an everlasting memory forever etched in their minds. Of course they will never forget “the one that got away”, or the countless times they got stuck in a tree, the rock that felt like a bite, or the way their face felt going across the water at 60 plus miles per hour. Each student had a story to share as they returned dockside later that afternoon. As for the club members, the day was as fun for them as it was for the kids.



What about the fishing? Every young angler was able to feel the rush of catching a respectable, Great Pond smallie. For some, it was the first fish they ever caught. For others, it was the biggest fish they ever caught. Nonetheless, these kids tore it up once they got the hang of things. What would a tournament be without handing out some awards to those that made the most of the day? The biggest bag of the day, with a limit of 5 smallies weighed in at 13 lbs 12oz. was Parker Brunelle, son of club chef, Shawn Brunelle (thanks for a killer barbecue). Coming in second was Chris Pettengill with his bag of 12lbs 15ozs. Third went to Dalton with his 11lbs 6oz bag, just squeaking past 4th place finisher Derek Smith's 11lbs 3oz Limit. Rounding out the top five was Damen with his 11lb. Bag. This was a CMR and all fish were released alive in the same spot they were caught. For many of the young anglers, this was their second time out with Millennium Bass. Each year they get better and better. We look forward to next year's event as it continues to grow in popularity. Like last year, we encouraged the young anglers to consider participating in the Junior State Championship. I would like to thank all of the members from Millennium and Western Maine Anglers for helping us make this a memorable event. Without your dedication and participation it would be impossible to pull off this event. In closing, don't wait until next year to take a kid fishing. They are the future of bass fishing in Maine and need our encouragement and support.

