IndependentMail.com
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Printer-friendly story
Read more at independentmail.com

National Hunting and Fishing Day makes World of Energy hum

Ray Chandler/Special to Independent Mail

Saturday, September 25, 2010

SENECA — Waves lapped against the pier and the whirr of a fishing reel was heard as the nylon line cast a running shadow over the water before the hook carrying a chunk of bait splashed into the blue-green surface of Lake Keowee.

Jason Foreman, 10, from Greenville doesn't try his hand at fishing all that often, but he was one of many of all ages who did Saturday as part of the fourth annual Outdoor Family Adventure in celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day. The activities, which were all offered at no cost to participants, happened at Duke Energy's World of Energy north of Seneca.

After receiving a few instructions about casting from Erik Martin, a game warden with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Foreman sent the line sailing and waited for a nibble.

"Jiggle it a little," his father, Nathan, told him, adding, "I used to fish some, but it's been years."

Elsewhere, others took their turns at kayaking or plinking at targets with bows and arrows. People also tried out air rifles, played hide-and-seek using woodland camouflage, or looked at exhibits of snakes and a baby alligator, all under the guidance of experts such as Martin.

Booths manned by members of local conservation groups such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited lined the pavilion.

By 1:30 p.m., three-quarters of the way through the festivities, more than 1,100 visitors had registered, according to Addie Bradshaw with the World of Energy.

National Hunting and Fishing Day has only been officially observed since 1972. But according to the event website, the roots go back more than 100 years. Hunters and fishermen joined with conservationists, informally led by avid hunter and conservationist President Theodore Roosevelt, calling for conservation measures that would preserve wildlife while promoting outdoor activities making use of natural resources. The official designation of the day by President Richard Nixon in 1972 was intended to mark and celebrate the effort, which encompasses almost anything in nature under the sun.

Or in the case of Jack Collins of Westminster's Cleveland community, anything under a beehive.

Collins' booth on behalf of the Oconee County Beekeepers Association sported a glass -fronted box Saturday that let passers-by observe the bees at work making honey. Between the box and Collins' banter, the booth drew a steady crowd.

"How do you pick up your bees?" asked one youngster.

"Very carefully," Collins joked before launching into hows and whys of beekeeping and bees' place in nature.

It was a perfect opportunity for Collins, 71, to do one of the things he enjoys the most - trying to interest upcoming generations in beekeeping. It's something he has done for about 60 years.

"We ain't going to be around forever," he said, referring to his generation of beekeepers. "We've got to get more young people to do it to pass it on."

Jason Foreman never caught a fish Saturday but was proud that he did score well with an air rifle.

"My dad promised to take me fishing somewhere next summer, though," he said. "I do want to do it some more."



© 2010 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online