

Clinton River Outing



Henry Nabors
Outing Reporter

The 4th annual Clinton River Outing was held on April 4th at Yates Park in Rochester Hills. Wow, what a beautiful day! Everyone was ready for a day on the river and an opportunity to learn about river fishing and about this wonderful resource in our own back yard.



The turnout was just great! Over 120 people signed in; there were many first-timers and walk-ups. Phil estimates that 30 to 40 visited the presentations; demonstrations and food tent that did not sign in. Attendance was spurred by excellent coverage in the local newspapers and radio spots. Bob Gross, freelance writer for the Oakland Press, wrote a super report and produced an outstanding video about the outing and the Clinton River - THANKS BOB!! Take a minute and take a look - http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2009/04/09/news/local_news/doc49dd6d9c8be21181751068.txt.

Also visit the article By TOM WATTS' Special Report to The Oakland Press at <http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2009/04/09/sports/doc49ddbc90401b2488480287.txt>. Very nice report; thanks Tom! (You can go to the Oakland Press Web Page and search for Clinton River and find the two articles that way.)

Thanks to Phil Bustos (MWS Event Co-Chairman), Dan Keifer (MWS Event Co-Chairman and Clinton River Watershed staff member) and Mike Hartner (Director of Rochester Hills Parks and Forestry) for their leadership in this event and the time they spent talking to the visitors and the press. Mike, please convey our thanks to your staff - Al Brown, Brian Lee and Scott Halliday - for all their assistance at the park and helping with the parking! Yates Cider Mill provided their parking lot at no charge again this year; parking was not an issue at all!!



"Fish Camp on the Clinton River" served up danishes and CRWC coffee to start the morning, then 140 hot dogs, chips, pop, water, the famous "endless" pot of soup, and a club cake for lunch. Also served up was a lot of information about steelhead fishing in general and techniques. Dan Keifer provided instruction on river fishing technique and a lot of information about river access and conditions. Rich Merlino, Royal Oak Orvis Store's fishing manager, handled the fly-fishing talk; thanks Rich for being part of this event and sharing with our visitors.

Gary Towns, MDNR Fisheries Division, wrote: "My compliments to ... everyone who made this happen again this year. The video quality and "on-camera" comments were great! Even though the water looked a bit high....the anglers were there in force and even were catching some fish. This was a good testimonial to this fishery. Thank you for doing it....and thanks for ... getting this out to people "on line".....this is the way so many people now get their



news. As for fish stocking this year - we had a bumper crop of fish from the hatcheries! The Clinton is going to get 28,300 steelies this year!"

Thanks to the Metro West Members that helped make this event a complete success! Jeff Bustos, Ron Maschke and Hermann Christoph deserve special mention for running the 'fish camp' kitchen!! Great job with the soup and hot dogs!!



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Comments from the outing:



Matt Lowney joined MWS in March. He, his family, his Club Scout pack and their families attended the Clinton River Outing on April 4th. Matt wrote: "I wanted to add a couple comments: the parents of the cub scouts were very impressed with the outing and Metro West steelheaders' members. The cub scouts had a great time, it was all their first time fishing on a river. I would like to personally thank the Club and members for a great outing with the Cub Scouts." "I've attached the corresponding photo for the attending cub scouts at the Clinton River outing, and info is as follows:

Pack 133 Cub Scouts, Andersonville Elementary, Davisburg, MI. Pack 133 Cub Scouts (Bear Scouts - 3rd grade) pictured from left to right, -back; Katelyn Haapala (sibling), Alex Martinez, Ryan Haapala, McKinley Edwards, Alexander Lowney, Alex DeShetler, Jaszek Will, -front; Everett Edwards (sibling), Madelyn Lowney (sibling), Samantha Lowney (sibling), Sebastian Salcedo, and of course Dan Keifer. Matt Lowney (not in photo) Metro-West Steelheaders member is the Cub Scout Den Leader for the Pack 133 Bear Scouts. "



Maggie Elloitt attended the outing with her Dad - friends of Jeff Bustos. Maggie had a bit of success! She landed a walleye and a pretty big sucker as well. Nicely done Maggie!! Congratulations.

Rick Balabon, MSSFA President said "Nice job guys. Can Deb reprint the (Bob Gross Clinton River) article for the GLSFN?" Sounds like it will be in the next edition with some of our pictured friends.

Mike Hartner, Directory Parks and Forestry Dept. City of Rochester Hills, said "Great day and a great turnout. Thanks to all your members for all the work to set it up." Mike is quoted extensively in the newspaper articles and video about the river and the event.



Henry Nabors said "It was a super opportunity to talk to the public about our Club and about the Clinton River. It was great having over 30 of our club members and their families out on such wonderful day! Very nice to see so many of our new members out and learning about river fishing.

Dan Keifer said "Great outing, especially with the new people and the kids. But, we need a good gray day for the fishing ... way too bright on Sat ... plus we need to get our guys spread out more next year. The action is away from Yates."

Follow these links to information you may find interesting and useful:

DNR Fisheries Newsletter:

http://michigan.gov/documents/dnr/LkErie-newsletterJan2009_264734_7.pdf

Michigan Steelheaders Site:

www.michigansteelheaders.org

Prior months Metro-West Newsletters:

www.michigansteelheaders.org/stchapter_newsletters.htm

Metro-West Website:

www.americantowns.com/mi/livonia/organization/metro_west_steelheaders_chapter

