The Andover Fish & Game Club's annual Kids Trout Fishing Derby on May 9 was a big success again this year. A record 146 kids registered for the morning's fun on the channel at Highland Lake. They caught a total of 79 fish: 60 trout, seven sunfish, five bass, five shiners, one hornpout, and one sucker. Trophies went to Robert Woodhams for the longest trout at 16½"; Madison Clark for the second-longest trout at 11"; Luke Weber for the third-longest trout at 10⅞"; Ryan Brown for the longest non-trout, a sucker at 15½"; and Stanley Rayno for the longest total of all the fish he caught at 51".

(Left photo) Dylan Heller, 3, tries his luck at the derby, helped by his dad Mark. (Right photo) The Forever Locked exhibit was parked outside the AF&G clubhouse throughout the derby. Frank Baker (l) brought samples from his antler collection for people to examine. Here he chats with Tina and John Cotton.

Staff photos: Charlie Darling

ASLPT Holds Its Annual Easement Monitoring Workshop

By Nancy Smith
Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) will be holding our annual Monitoring Workshop on Wednesday, June 10, in the afternoon. (Rain date, June 17.) If you enjoy hiking in the woods and reading maps, you might like to join us and learn how to be a monitor for one of our easement properties.

Our business is land protection. We do this by helping private landowners or towns draft legal contracts that protect their land from future development. For every property the ASLPT protects, we take on the monitoring obligation forever.

Each of our conservation easement properties must be monitored once a year. The monitors are responsible for contacting the landowner to discuss any changes that might have taken place on their property in the last year and then walking the property bounds and taking photos.

Most properties take about half a day to monitor, and then there is a short form to be filled out, and we request that you write a short narrative of your visit. We encourage monitors to walk the properties in the fall, before hunting season begins. Most of our monitors continue to do the same property year after year and become very comfortable with the boundaries.

Our monitoring workshop will be held in the afternoon on June 10 (rain date, June 17) from 2 PM to 6 PM at our office at 71 Pleasant Street in New London. We will teach you how to use a compass, read a survey map, pace off a distance, and fill out the form.

Part of the workshop will take place inside, then we will move outside to visit an actual easement property. If you enjoy being outdoors, this is a great volunteer opportunity for you!

To sign up for the workshop, call the ASLPT office at 526-6555. Wear hiking boots, bring a compass (if you have one), and be prepared for bugs!

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