



Above: Niki Smith, 5, and her dad Steve help the Andover Fish & Game Club stock Highland Lake. Niki is Bob Walsh's granddaughter.

Below: The next day, Joey Upton, 4, proudly shows off his catches in the Fish & Game Club's annual Kids' Fishing Derby at Highland Lake.

Photos: Bob Bussey



NH Free Fishing Day Is June 7

Get out the fishing gear and head for the river, lake, or pond to try your luck on New Hampshire's annual Free Fishing Day – Saturday, June 7. State residents – and non-residents, too – can fish any inland water in the Granite State that day without a license. If you're already licensed, take advantage of the day to bring along your friends and family.

"Most people who hook a fish once can hardly wait for the chance to do it again. Free Fishing Day is your chance to give it a try!" says Karina Jolles, New Hampshire Fish and Game's Let's Go Fishing program coordinator.

Free Fishing Day wraps up National Fishing and Boating Week (June 1 – 8) in New Hampshire, a nationwide observance giving families a chance to have fun together on the water.

Free Fishing Day is the perfect chance to introduce all your non-angling friends and family to the sport, especially if you fish for something easy to catch, like bluegills or yellow perch.

"Make an adventure out of it, grab your rod, and make a picnic lunch. You'll surely have a great time catching these fish," Jolles says. "For just a few dollars, you can buy an inexpensive rod and reel and a few hooks and sinkers to get started on an activity people of all

ages can enjoy." Adults just get one day to fish free in the Granite State, but kids under 16 can fish without a license in New Hampshire throughout the year.

Season dates, limits and all other fishing regulations must be followed on Free Fishing Day. Anglers fishing for brood stock Atlantic salmon in the Merrimack and lower Pemigewasset rivers must have a fishing license and a special permit.

For details on fishing rules, consult the 2008 New Hampshire Freshwater Fishing Digest at Wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/fishing.htm, or wherever fishing licenses are sold. The Fish and Game Web site at FishNH.com also has tips on tackle, lake depths, where fish have been stocked, a free weekly e-mail fishing newsletter, and much more.

The Web site also has regional fishing guides with suggestions on where to fish from the shoreline, currently available for Manchester/Nashua, the North Country, and southwestern N.H.

If you get hooked on Free Fishing Day, enjoy the fun year round. Licenses are available online at FishNH.com or from any of 250 friendly local license agents statewide.

Fish New Hampshire and relax. We have what you're looking for.

Becoming An Outdoors-Woman Workshop

Starting June 9, women interested in learning outdoor skills in a fun, non-competitive setting can sign up for the fall Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop offered by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation. The workshop fills up fast, so interested women should register as soon as possible after the opening date.

Starting June 6, you can download a print-and-mail application at NHBOW.com; e-mail aquatic-ed@wildlife.nh.gov; or call 271-3212 to request an application. Registration is first-come, first-served; applications will be accepted beginning June 9.

This year's fall BOW workshop takes place Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 5 through 7, at Rockywold/Deephaven Camps on Squam Lake in Holderness. You must be 18 years of age or older to participate. The cost is \$295, which includes lodging, meals, instruction, and equipment use.

Several scholarships are available; call 271-3212 for information, or visit NHBOW.com for a scholarship application.

"BOW is an amazing weekend of learning outdoor skills in the supportive company of other women," said Tina Davenport, who coordinates the BOW program. "We give women a chance to explore all kinds of challenging outdoor activities that may

become lifelong interests."

Women choose from among 30 course offerings, including archery, fly-fishing, hiking, canoeing, handling firearms, outdoor survival, kayaking, campfire cooking, and much more. Participants mix-and-match three or four classes during the BOW weekend, depending on their interests.

Women who want to get started in outdoor pursuits or build on skills they already have should visit NHBOW.com and find out more about this exciting program.

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