

Trailside Lodge – south end of Letchworth State Park - Castile, NY

May 22 - 24, 2015

Learn to Catch a Fish Family Picnic and Spearfishing Target Derby - May 23

It was a breezy and cool weekend with only three of the six scheduled balloon flights able to launch for the Red, White and Blue Balloon Rally which was attended by more than 6,000 people. The nearly 30 hot air balloons depart from the Archery Field and often drift into the gorge before ascending again to where ever the breeze may blow them.

More than 350 people attended the Learn to Catch a Fish Family Picnic on Saturday which featured a free picnic & door prizes, a variety of learning stations and no fishing license required at a stocked trout pond. The atlatl demonstration range was visited by 95 throwers and nearly as many spectators. People threw 100s of times and hit the bales at 10 meters dozens of times, breaking many balloons. Nine people entered the Spearfishing Target Derby. In 2010, twelve people made 36 entries in spearing fish 275 times out of 756 attempts (This equated to a success ratio of 36.4% which was higher than last year's 22.8% or the first year's 18.3% and the predicted 10% - due to the larger percentage of experienced throwers).

People continued on Sunday throwing the ISAC and some of the New York Atlatl games. A summary of all the throwing follows below:

Spearfishing Target Derby

Men

84 Douglas Bassett

Women

6 Debra Converse

Youth

72 Marlin Bassett

Novice Men

77 Aaron Thorp

20 Ed Thorp

Novice Women

0 Tiffany Gomez

Novice Youth

6 Will Gomez

1 Hailey Gomez

0 Kailynne Gomez

Seven different life-sized fish targets were thrown at three times by each entrant. The spear had to hit entirely within a black outline to count and hits on the narrow body form of the Long-nosed Gar counted two points instead of one. Six divisions, three each of novice or experienced throwers vied for ranking to compete in the grand championship throw-off. Based on fish size (small, medium, large) each division threw from three distances (short, medium and long). All novices (youth, women, men) threw from 2, 3 or 4 meters while the experienced throwers threw from the following distances: Youth (3, 4 or 5m); Women (4, 6 or 8m); Men (6, 8 or 10m). The percentages following each fish species listed below is the success ratio from the year 2010 for novice (N) and experienced (E) throwers: Freshwater Drum (small fish) N-22%, E-38%; Greater Redhorse (small fish) N-22%, E-32%; White Sucker (small fish) N-11%, E-30%; Black Bullhead (small fish) N-11%, E-42%; Burbot (medium fish) N-22%, E-28%; Long-nosed Gar (medium fish) N-33%, E-27% and Common Carp (large fish) N-33%, E-65%. Overall, the novices were 22.2% successful and the experienced throwers were 37.7% successful. The final score for each spearfishing person was the total fish types speared times the total points scored.

Grand Champion Throw-off (assembled from people that were around at the time)

- 1st round hit Douglas Bassett (Iroquois Tribe)
- 2nd round hit Marlin Bassett (Shark Tribe)
- 3rd round close Hailey Gomez (Under the Hill Tribe)
- 4th round close Debra Converse (O'er the Hill Tribe)
- 5th round close Will Gomez (Idano Tribe)
- 5th round paper Robert Skean (Shrug Tribe)



Fishing Scene at the Trout Pond



Atlatl Action on the Demonstration Range

Note the difference in apparel between this year and last

The other contests were as follows:

Red highlight is personal best
 Blue highlight is season's best
 LPPP = last place protection plan

ISAC (13 people, 17 entries)

- 93-2X Douglas Bassett
- 84-X Marlin Bassett (age 12)
- 71 Sue Mercer
- 29 Julie Maier
- 22 Tiffany Gomez
- 17 Debra Converse

- 14 Bill Maier
- 10 Kailynne Gomez (age 11)
- 9 Judy VanAlstyne
- 8 Will Gomez (age 7)
- LPPP Hailey Gomez (age 10)
- LPPP Chris Bauth (age 11)
- LPPP Matt Bauth (age 14)

New York Atlatl Hunter Competition (11 people)

ISAC 51+ (distances 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 m)

Yellow (31+)

61 Douglas Bassett

Red (16-30)

No Entries

Blue (0-15)

No Entries

ISAC 0-50 & Youth (ages 3-11)

(distances 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 m)

Black (16+)

37 Bill Maier

21 Julie Maier

White (0-15)

6 Pat Maier

New York Atlatl National Competition (6 people)

ISAC 51+ (distances 15 & 20 m)

Yellow (80+)

80 Douglas Bassett
(43 opposite-handed)

Red (50-79)

77-X Marlin Bassett

Blue (0-49)

30 Sue Mercer
(13 opposite-handed)

ISAC 0-50 & Youth (distances 10 & 15 m)

Black (50+)

No entries

White (0-49)

31 Julie Maier

12 Bill Maier

3 Pat Maier