

# Fish Tales Holiday 2013

Aksarben Aquarium

21502 W Hwy 31

Gretna, NE 68028



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

As the year draws to a close, we want to remind you how much we appreciate your contributions to the Youth Fishing Program. I continue to enjoy getting to know each of you and working together with you at fishing clinics and on some of our new ventures like Trout in the Classroom and Continuing Education courses. I am looking forward to 2014! **Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.**

**Rod and Reel Maintenance Days** are planned for **Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** in Gretna at the Aksarben Aquarium and **Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** in Lincoln at the Hunter Education office. During these events, we will overhaul the Youth Fishing Program equipment. We can use help sorting out broken equipment, stripping and replacing fishing line, cleaning reels, and rigging fishing poles for the Fishing Trailers. We have over 500 combos between our trailers and the UPS boxed fishing kits, so it's a big task! Work starts at **9 AM** on both days and continues until we've cleared the pile. A chili lunch will be served at noon. Even if you are unavailable to help with maintenance, please feel free to stop by for a bowl of chili. Either way, please **RSVP by Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** to Tori Mullins if you plan to attend.

The **Biennial Conservation Educators Conference** is scheduled for **February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014** at Mahoney State Park. If you have not received your invitation in the mail, please contact Larry Pape. Space is limited, so send your registrations in early!!

**Discover Ice Fishing** will take place at Mahoney State Park on **Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Tori if you would like to volunteer.

**Outdoor Discovery Programs** are scheduled for 2014. The Platte River State Park ODP is scheduled for **Tuesday and Wednesday, April 15-16**, the Scottsbluff ODP is scheduled for **Tuesday and Wednesday, April 29-20**, and the Fort Kearny State Park ODP is scheduled for **Thursday and Friday, May 8-9** with a public expo on **Saturday, May 10**.

The **Family Fishing Night** base schedule and dates for Carp-O-Ramas will be posted soon at <http://familyfishing.outdoornebraska.gov>.

### ***In this newsletter:***

- *Boys Scouts of America Youth Protection Policy (Pg. 4)*
- *Fishing Fundamentals Courses offered in Ogallala and Southeast Nebraska (Pg. 3)*
- *NEFGA installs a fishing line recycling bin at NGPC (Pg. 2)*
- *Spring Trout Fishing (Pg. 3)*
- *ReelCycling (Pg. 4)*

### ***Looking Ahead:***

In an effort to further streamline our record keeping, we will be issuing 4 digit ID numbers to all instructors. You will receive a new name tag with your ID number printed on the back. Starting in Spring 2014, this number must be included with your signature on activity report forms. ID numbers will clear up confusion with changes in surnames and use of nicknames on activity report forms.



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## NEFGA installs a fishing line recycling bin at NGPC headquarters

Late this summer a visitor asked Kathy Rowlands in customer service at the NGPC headquarters office ‘What can be done with used fishing line?’ Kathy contacted the Fisheries Division, and the answer was simple. Install a Nebraska Fish and Game Association (NEFGA) sponsored Fishing Line Recycling Bin at NGPC headquarters in Lincoln.

So, on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> a bunch of us from NGPC and NEFGA installed and dedicated a recycling bin along the driveway between the two buildings of the NGPC headquarters. Our objectives for the bin at this location are to collect fishing line to remove it from the environment and waste stream, instill a sense of environmental responsibility, and support NEFGA in a wonderfully devised and operated program.

To our pleasant surprise, on the Monday following the bin installation we received our first request from the public for more information about the program. We have yet to collect much fishing line, but with all the deer check and permit purchase traffic that goes by the bin, we suspect that it will be a popular line drop-off site this spring.



*Back Row (L): Steve Wagle, Larry Pape, Don Gabelhouse, Daryl Bauer, James Lyda  
Front Row (L): Josh Milczski, Lindsey Chizinski, Kathy Rowlands, John Vrtiska, Corey Malm  
Below: Kathy Rowlands christens the line bin with its first piece of discarded fishing line.*



### NEFGA’s Recycling Program

The Nebraska Fish and Game Association’s Fishing Line Recycling Bin program was started in early 2008 to bring attention to the need to protect our local waters and wildlife. NEFGA has installed over 100 bins since the beginning of the program and the numbers continue to grow thanks to outdoor enthusiasts, local retailers and many organizations.

These bins are placed at public fishing areas for people to discard their used fishing line. Volunteers collect the old line, and NEFGA ships it to recycling centers.

Please visit us at [NEFGA.ORG/FORUM](http://NEFGA.ORG/FORUM) for information on how you can sponsor fishing line recycling bins in your area, or serve as a line collection volunteer.



## Fishing Fundamentals courses offered in Ogallala and Southeast Nebraska

The Youth Fishing Program has recently partnered with Southeast Community College and Mid-Plains Community College to offer basic fishing classes through their continuing education programs.

The courses are promoted as a family activity, and are structured in a four week format with three classroom sessions that cover:

- **Session 1:** An introduction to angling: history, rods & reels, regulations, & ethics
- **Session 2:** Common Nebraska fish: anatomy, identification, and habitat
- **Session 3:** Fishing equipment and techniques

The final session will be a fishing trip to a local lake.

Fees are determined by the College. In the instance that fees are collected, any monies left after the college's administrative costs can be donated to the NGPC Foundation and used to purchase fishing equipment for participating families.

We currently have courses scheduled for next spring in Auburn, Weeping Water, York, Lincoln, Wahoo, and Ogallala. Youth Fishing Instructors have volunteered to teach at each of the six locations! A big thank you to John Wright, Jerry Smith, Jim McInerney, Ken Whisenhunt, Dave Hoffman, Gary McGuire, and Darrol Eichner for volunteering to lead these courses.

Lesson guides have been developed to accompany the Fishing Fundamentals course, and I am working with Trout Unlimited to develop similar guides for a Fly Fishing Fundamentals course.

**If anyone else is interested in teaching a continuing education course in your community, please get in touch with Lindsey or Tori. We will work together to establish a connection with the community college in your area.**

## Spring Trout stocking and fishing opportunities

Early spring trout fishing is a great remedy for cabin fever and winter time blues. Our observation is that trout stocking, particularly spring trout, are one of our most appreciated Fisheries Management endeavors, so NGPC has expanded spring trout stocking sites have to 28 locations in 2014. We are particularly happy that this program is suited to and attracts novice and young anglers.

In 2014, in coordination with the spring trout stocking, we would like to host Family Fishing Events at as many of the stocking locations as possible. Just as we see at Family Fishing Nights in the summer, many more people will try trout fishing if they have a little help and encouragement. We need your support to make this happen!

Family Trout Fishing Events can take place March 22nd through April 5th on weekend afternoons from 1 – 3 PM, and weekday evenings from 5 – 7 PM.

You can help us by:

- Determining the best date and location of an event in your community
- Being a contact person to receive bait, equipment, etc.
- Coordinating local publicity
- Transporting the Fishing Activity Trailer to and from the event
- Directing NGPC and YFI staff at the event

We will supply:

- Fishing Activity Trailer (50 rods/reels, tackle, brochures, etc.)
- Bait (corn... so simple!)
- Publicity
- Additional NGPC or YFI staff help
- How to Fish for Trout brochures and materials
- Training, suggestions, support

**Contact Larry to discuss specific dates and to schedule a Family Trout Fishing Event.**

## Refresher: Boys Scouts of America Youth Protection Policy

**Please remain diligent in following this policy whenever you are working with youth, as a Youth Fishing Instructor or otherwise! This policy is enforced by the Youth Fishing Program to protect our participants and you as the instructor.**

**Suspected abuse:** If an instructor suspects that any student has been subjected to physical, mental or sexual abuse (regardless of where it may have occurred), it must be reported immediately to a local law enforcement office and the Youth Fishing Program Coordinator.

**Two-deep supervision:** A minimum of two adults (instructors and/or parents) must be present at all Youth Fishing Program activities.

**No one-on-one contact:** One-on-one contact between an instructor and a student is not permitted. All interactions are to be conducted in full view of other people.

**Respect of privacy:** Instructors must respect the privacy of minors in situations such as restroom breaks and should intrude only to the extent that health and safety requires. They also need to protect their own privacy in similar situations.

**Separate accommodations:** in the event a program calls for an overnight outing, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent or room of an adult other than his/her own parent or guardian. Separate shower and latrine facilities for males and females are to be provided or separate time schedules are to be scheduled for males and females to shower.

**Sexual harassment and bullying:** No sexual harassment or bullying, even between students, is to be tolerated. Instructors who observe or are made aware of any inappropriate behavior involving other instructors or students are to intervene and counsel the offending person. They are also to report the incident to the Youth Fishing Program Coordinator at the earliest opportunity.

**Appropriate physical contact:** There are times when physical contact is both necessary and appropriate, such as assisting a student in assuming a proper casting position. Such coaching should be done in full view of other students and adults. The student should be told in advance what contact is going to be made (for example: "I need to hold your shoulder and move your right hand").

Visit:

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx> for more detail regarding the BSA Youth Protection policies.

## ReelCycling

Do you have a bunch of old but good fishing equipment lying around? I do! We often receive very good used equipment from the public, and really want to get it back into the hands of families that can use it.

Here is the idea; let us know what you think.

### Annual two-day Reelcycling and YFI conference

- Mid February – March (begin 2015)
- Clean, repair and rebuild donated equipment
- Attend information and training sessions
- Eat, drink, tell stories

### ReelCycled equipment distribution

- Send it back home with YFI Reelcycling participants to distribute to families in the community
- Distribute at Family Fishing Nights and other events

Send Larry an email with your opinions. If we get enough positive response, we will provide more details in the Spring edition of Fish Tales. In the mean-time, don't throw any old fishing equipment away!

## Continuing Education and After School Club Curriculum

Lesson guides, Powerpoint presentations, and activities for a Fishing Fundamentals course are available online at <http://fishingnebraska.wordpress.com/fishing-fundamentals/>. As additional guides are completed, they will be added to this link. Please feel free to use these materials for your after school fishing clubs!