

Fishing derby is time for Tom Sawyer fantasy

By LEM MEESE

June 14 is a good time for a costume party — especially when you're dressing up like Tom Sawyer or Becky Thatcher.

It's part of the annual fishing derby on Newburgh Lake, which may anglers in the 6-16 age group overlook. "They shouldn't pass it by, because some of the derby's best prizes are for the kids who look most like Tom and Becky," says Eleanor Chruschal, chief adviser to contest chairman Hank Chruschal.

The fishing derby will run from 7 a.m. to noon with the Tom and Becky

look-alike contest starting during the fish weigh-in.

You can enter either the fishing contest, the costume contest or both. Most kids enter both.

It's best to start with Mark Twain's novel "Tom Sawyer" for ideas. Mrs. Chruschal heaves a sigh as she confesses that each year the winners are getting harder and harder to judge. "The fish judges have it easy — they just measure and weigh fish. In the Tom and Becky contest, you really have to think," she said.

The best Tom Sawyer look-alike will win a 6-by-9 plush rug from A.R. Kramer & Co. of Livonia and a dinner

at York Steak House of Westland.

The Becky winner will take home a chaise longue from Jimmie's Rustics, Inc. of Livonia and have dinner at Mynk's Restaurant, Northville.

Both will get a rod and reel from Northwest Gun Shop of Redford; a set of lures from Espinger Doredevo of Dearborn; a cutting board from the Sarvef Building Boys Club of Redford; a bike CB radio from Reliable Bicycle Shop of Livonia; and a belt buckle from the Scott Colburn western shop of Livonia.

There will be many similar prizes for the runners-up. To enter the contest, just show up at

the registration table, located north of Hines Drive about a half-mile east of Newburgh Road.

Co-sponsors of the derby are the Western Wayne County Conservation Club and the parks departments of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Westland and Dearborn Heights.

THAT BASS you caught from Pontiac, Kent or Whitmore lakes may have an orange tag that looks like spaghetti.

It was put there by the state Department of Natural Resources as part of a \$25,000 study of whether bass fishing is getting better compared to 20 years

ago, when the last study was made.

More than 1,000 bass were given numbered tags just below the dorsal fin earlier in the spring, said DNR fisheries biologist Ron Spitzer. Then they were released in Pontiac Lake, northern Oakland County; Kent Lake, on the Oakland-Livonia border; and Whitmore Lake, on the Washtenaw-Livonia border.

In addition, some northern pike were tagged in all three lakes; tiger muskies in Pontiac and Whitmore; and walleyes in Kent.

What do you do if you land a tagged fish? Spitzer replied: "Note the tag number, length of fish,

date caught and lake name.

"Mention whether you kept or released the fish. Don't remove the tag if you are releasing the fish."

Send the information to: Michigan DNR, Institute for Fisheries Research; University Museums Annex; Ann Arbor 48109.

Spitzer said DNR will also use the information to compare fishing activity for various species, what the success rate is for bass, how many caught bass are released, and what has been the effect of raising the legal size limit to 12 inches in 1976.

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