



Just pretend: Two-year-old Marissa Henri plays at fishing (no hook at the end of the line) with mom, Diane Henri. With them are husband Steve and sons Ross, 7, and Evan, 6.



Catch on catch on: The Atkins family—Laura, 11, Chad, 7, and Brian, 14—display their catches from Saturday's Fishing Derby.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMBLICK

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However, people were seen fishing Sunday until 8:30 p.m., Farmington Hills Naturalist Joe Derek said. Some reported catching as many as eight fish the day after, Derek said.

Three was the limit during the derby. The event coincides with opening day of the state trout fishing season and is sponsored by the city of Farmington and Hills Parks and Recreation Department.

Some 425 people registered for this year's derby.

The pool included seasoned anglers to children with toy rod and reels. Anglers were more spread out as organizers expanded the

fishing area the entire length of Shiawassee Park. Also, the number of trout planted doubled from 250 the previous year.

"Where's the fishies?" asked Jacob Weiss, 4.

Around 10 a.m., the only thing the Welsses seemed to catch were tree branches on the other side of the tributary. Mom was busy trying to unsnag her child's mis-cast line.

"You can tell we're first timers," said Diane, mother of Jacob and Jesse.

A few yards down Laura Atkins, 11, had her catch of the day dangling by a rope. Asked what

she was going to do with it, "eat it" replied the fifth grader at Flanders Elementary.

She'd have to clean it first, her father said. "I'm going to show her how to do it," Dennis Atkins said.

Tim and Carol McGee of Farmington Hills only needed two hours to land their limit of six trout. The McGees brought their daughter Maggie to get her involved in the sport.

"The secret is 20-years experience," Tim McGee said. "Bouncing the bottom and making sure you put the worm in front of the fish's nose."

McGee's fishing ability lured one spectator, Farmington resident Bill Liba didn't have a pole, but was casting his eyes on the proceedings.

"He knew exactly what he was doing," said Liba about McGee's fishing talents. "He'd drop the bait right in front of them."

Trout tend to congregate in quiet, dark areas, Derek said. Spots along near the pedestrian walk or by shaded areas were coveted.

The fish were planted Friday morning in 15 areas along the tributary. Fences at both ends kept them in the park. The trout weighed up to two pounds.



It's Derby Day: Anglers of all ages line the banks of the trout-stocked Middle Rouge in Farmington's City Park.



A knotty problem: Dave Letwinaki untangles his fishing line, as well as the line of his friend Jay Snapp. Dave's daughter, Tori, and Jay's son, Steven, and daughter, Shelby, also fished.



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