



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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Kids Get Hooked on Fishing at Hidden Pond

Northern Virginia youngsters have a chance to tackle the sport of fishing and practice with an enthusiastic mentor on Saturday evenings.

Fishing with Owen is one of several new class series at Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield, Va., and one of more than a dozen Fairfax County Park Authority summer programs and camps that feature fishing.

Each Fishing with Owen class focuses on a different local fish. The 8-to-12 year-old anglers will see a PowerPoint slideshow about the focus species, then head to the park's pond for instruction on tackle and techniques used to catch that type of fish. All fish caught will be released.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own rod and reel; however several will be available for use. Bait and tackle are provided.

Instructor Owen Mulvey-McFerron began fishing at age three, and over the past six years he has worked as a volunteer, summer camp instructor and captain for the award-winning Envirothon team at Hidden Pond. An avid fresh and saltwater fisherman, he also teaches fishing classes for the Boy Scouts of America and Trout Unlimited.

The Saturday evening Fishing with Owen programs will feature suckers on July 19, eels on July 26, and turtles on Aug. 2. Programs run from 6 to 7 p.m. except on July 26. That program will be from 7 to 8 p.m. because eels are most active at night. The program cost is \$6 per child. Sign up online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond/events.htm or call Hidden Pond Nature Center at 703-451-9588.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.