



CONTACT THE EDITOR

Program sees kids, fish get acquainted

By Juliana Mathews/Cannon Correspondent

Lake Wood Park hosted both KIDFISH and KATS, two popular fishing tournaments, on Saturday. Saturday's attendance reached record levels at the normally serene Lake Wood Park just west of Gonzales. KIDFISH was a baiting success with 86 registrants from ages one to 16 years. While the kids fished nearby, 52 adults competed in the KATS kayak anglers tournament held on the main area of the lake.

KIDFISH tournaments are about spending quality time with family and friends. Everything is provided for free: polls, bait, bobbers, and even chips and hotdogs for lunch. The young participants are categorized into three age groups: 6 and under, 7-11, and 12-16 years old. It is all about the kids — parents are not allowed to touch the polls unless the child needs assistance baiting the hook, or reeling in the fish.

Twelve-year-old Cruz Flores, the only finalist in the 12-16 age group, took First Place with a seven-inch catch.

Savannah Heximer, age 10, took First Place in the 7-11 age group with her 21-inch catch. Eight-year-old Raven Lookabill came in a close second with a 20.75 catfish.

Six-year-old John Trejo won First Place in his age group, catching the tournament's biggest fish with a 24.5 inch catfish. Second Place went to Anthony Decola, age 6, with a 20.75 inch catfish.

Four-year-old Presley Just caught three fish, the most of any single participant in the tournament.

KATS, the kayak anglers tournament series, participants took to the lake at the crack of dawn. Mike Mashl of Seguin won the \$750 First Place prize with five bass totaling 90.5 inches, the longest measuring 21.25 inches.

KIDFISH is a youth outreach program dedicated to facilitating and educating a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts. KATS is Texas' largest freshwater kayak angler's tournament series. To participate in either of the ongoing tournaments visit KIDFISH.com or FishKats.com for more information.



Six-year-old John Trejo lands the 'big one' (above) during Saturday's KidFish event. Below, it's a shrimp with a whopper: John's 24.5-inch catfish was the biggest caught in the day of fun.



Cruz Flores with his winner



Presley Just had three catches



Savannah Heximer gets acquainted with her catch



Raven Lookabill with her catch



Mike Mashl with his KATS trophy



Anthony DeCola with his winner