

Picatinny Arsenal National Hunting and Fishing Day
September 12, 2009

The rain and mud didn't hamper the children and grandchildren of Picatinny's employees, military, retirees and guests from enjoying some great fishing during the annual children's fishing contest sponsored by the Picatinny Rod and Gun Association (PR&GA). Around 300 trout to include over a 100 catfish were stocked courtesy of the PR&GA and the Civilian Welfare Council.

Prizes were awarded to the children in three age groups. The 6 and under group was won by **John Finkeldie**, 3 ½ years old from Sparta, .93 Lbs, followed by **Syaney Lee**, 4 years old from Somerset, .91Lbs, and **Lauren Forsythe**, 3 years old from Rockaway weighed her trout in at .89Lbs. **Lliam Aguilar** 5 years old from Hackettstown won the overall catfish category weighing in at .63 lbs. The 7 – 11 group was lead by **Nick Thomas**, 7years old from Roxbury, 1.07 Lbs, followed by **Erin Devito**, 9 years old from Byram, 1.06 Lbs, and **Kennith Frappier**, 11 years old from Rockaway, 1.05 lbs. In the 12 – 15 age group **Stevie Devito**, 13 years old from Byram, .95 Lbs took the honors followed by **Dalton Stack** 13 years old from Picatinny, .91 Lbs, and **Elizabeth Stack** 13 years old from Picatinny, .87 Lbs. Winners received rod & reel combo's, tackle boxes, nets and lures. Each child that participated in the contest received a small prize. Everyone went away a winner! The prizes were presented by Colonel (P) Maddux Commander Picatinny Arsenal, and Mike Tutko, Chairman National Hunting and Fishing Day. There were 28 children that attended the event.

In addition to the trout contest the children were also given the opportunity to learn safe handling of firearms with Chuck Horvath using pellet guns and using a bow & arrow on archery target range by Art Reimer and his wife Claire. There was a collection of black powder primitive weapons on display by Richard McDaniels and fly tying techniques by Al Wagnez for the children to view and also live pheasants on display. Young John Rogalo's Labrador Retriever (Dory) demonstrated her waterfowl retrieving techniques. The PR&GA annual pig roast was held at the Rod & Gun Club that evening to cap off a perfect day.

A special thanks to those who cooked lunch & dinner (Sal Sacco, Nelsen Gravenstede, Jim Huff & John Morgan) and to all the sponsors and volunteers that made this years National Hunting and Fishing Day a success, without them this annual event would not have been possible!

MIKE TUTKO
Chairman NHFD