

**United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 15, 2008

INFORMATION: Maggie Briggs

410-228-2677

Blackwater NWR Holds 6th Annual Youth Fishing Derby June 7

In partnership with Wal-Mart, The Friends of Blackwater, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge will hold their 6th Annual Youth Fishing Derby on June 7, 2008 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. The derby will be held at Hog Range Pond on Refuge property located behind the old Howard House off Route 335. Youths 15 years old and under may pre-register for the derby by calling 410-228-2677, or at 8:00 am to 9:00am on June 7 on arrival to the pond. At 9:00 am fishing will begin and end at 12 noon. Youths may compete for prizes for the biggest catfish, biggest sunfish, and the most fish in 3 age classes - 5 and under, 6-10, and 11-15. Bait and fishing rods and reels will be provided, or you can bring your own. However, the number of fishing rods and reels is limited, so it is recommended you bring your own if you have one. Experienced fisherman will be available to assist the young fisherman in catching his/her tricky fish. Educational exhibits or demonstrations will be conducted throughout the day. Each contestant will receive a free t-shirt, hot dog, soda, chips, and a bag of gifts. Horn Point's touch tank and Kerry Turner's reptiles will be on display for the event

The Blackwater 6th annual frog jumping contest will be held at 12:00 pm. If you wish to enter this event, bring your quickest jumping frog to compete. Due to changes in regulations on possessing turtles, there will be no turtle race this years. Come on out and join the fun of catching fish. Last year 100 kids caught 101 fish!

Directions to Hog Range Pond - From Route 50, turn onto Route 16 West. Go approximately 7 miles to Church Creek. Turn left onto Route 335. Go approximately 5 miles. Turn into the first drive on the right past Key Wallace Drive. Go past the large old house on the right to the pond in the next field on the right. For further information and pre-registration, call 410-228-2677.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the

American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.