



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Offices Fishy Faces



Working with Kids to Conserve Fish and Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs) play an important role in connecting children with nature by providing outreach and education to families, schools, youth groups, and communities. Through environmental education and

interpretive programs, FWCOs engage families and youth in conservation and management of native aquatic species and habitat with the goal of expanding conservation awareness and stewardship. For example:

AFFTA National Casting Call

This event, sponsored by the American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA), provides children with an opportunity to learn fly casting, go fishing, and learn about fisheries conservation and aquatic habitat issues.

Regional & Local Events

FWCOs participate in local conservation events across the country. From youth fishing derbies to schoolyard wetlands restoration and restocking efforts, FWCO biologists help kids engage with nature and learn the importance of fish and wildlife conservation.

RBFF National Fishing & Boating Week

National Fishing and Boating Week is a nationwide celebration of fishing and boating coordinated by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF). Thousands of sites across the country host free fishing events for kids that encourage responsible fishing and boating practices.



USFWS Director H. Dale Hall helps young angler at Constitution Gardens pond in Washington, D.C.

“Fishing and just playing around in the woods was an important part of my childhood. Our kids need to have a chance to tromp through a woodlot or muck around in a creek. That’s the foundation of a healthy relationship with the outdoors and a way to spark a conservation ethic.”

-USFWS Director H. Dale Hall

What Can You Do?

Go outside and connect a child to the wild!

Contact your local FWC0 and attend a local or regional event:

- Fishing derby
- County Fair
- State Fair
- Kids Fishing Clinic
- Environmental Field Day
- Take a Family Fishing (CO)
- Pet Amnesty Day (FL)
- River Education Days (WI)
- Salmon Festivals (WA)
- Wild Wings Outdoor Festival (MS)
- Adopt-a-Salmon-Family (AK)
- 4-H Fur, Feathers, Fish, and Fun Day (MI)

Take a walk in the woods

Climb a tree

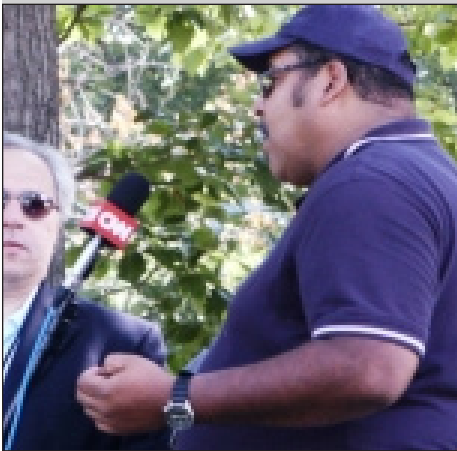
CATCH LIGHTNING BUGS

Turn over rocks in a creek and look for critters

fish in a local pond

Draw a picture of fish in a stream

FWCO's Bennie Williams, Recipient of American Recreation Coalition's Legends Award



Bennie Williams received one of seven prestigious 2008 Legends Awards presented to Federal managers by the American Recreation Coalition (ARC). The award is in recognition of outstanding work to improve outdoor recreation experiences and opportunities for the American people through Federal outdoor recreation programs and resources.

Bennie has demonstrated extraordinary individual effort and great personal sacrifice to expand participation of urban youth in recreational fishing and to connect children, especially under-served and special-needs youth, to nature through the use of innovative programs.

Since 2003, when he joined the Service, Bennie has chaired the interagency committee that organizes National Fishing and Boating Week in the National Capital Area, particularly the youth fishing event on the National Mall. More recently, he has worked with the American Fly Fishing Trade Association and 21 other industry and nonprofit partners to establish a youth fishing event as a key part of the National Casting Call, a series of events over two days

focused on sustaining the growth of recreational fishing. This year, he began working with the C.A.S.T. (Catch a Special Thrill) for Kids Foundation to provide disabled children with the opportunity for a quality fishing experience. He is also engaged in a broad partnership to restore the Anacostia River, which will provide new fishing opportunities to urban residents of the District of Columbia.

For more information about Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at (202) 208-6394 or visit <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/fwco/>

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(800) 344-WILD

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