

National Fishing Day—June 7, 2010

FWS—Brittany Lee: We're here today for the National Fishing Event for the kids. What normally goes on during National Boating and Fishing Week and Great Outdoors Month?

Bryan Arroyo: This is a week that is specially dedicated to exposing young people to the benefits of outdoors. And one of the activities that helps the most in that is fishing. Fishing and boating, in fact, is one of the most significant activities, economically and outdoors, that occurs in this country. This event here at the Constitutional Gardens is a youth fishing event where we expose kids from the D.C. area to the benefits of fishing and the enjoyment of the outdoors.

FWS: And why would you say it's important for them to know about this right now as children, instead of just waiting until they're adults?

Bryan: Well, for a number of reasons. First and foremost, they will become adults, who then will be managing our natural resources. They will be our subsequent. Secondly, as most of us in the Fish and Wildlife Service, I got started fishing. My interest in the outdoors began with fishing. And from that, it became a career. And it's a lifelong commitment to natural resource conservation. And thirdly, it's a great opportunity to be outside. We have a great day today, and these kids have an opportunity to engage with other kids and meet other people and hear about other opportunities in the future.

Child: Look! I caught a fish!

FWS: Oh my gosh! How many have you caught so far?

Child: This is my second one.

Onlooker 1: Get him! Get him! Look at him! PULL!

Onlooker 2: (cheers)

Onlooker 3: (screams)

Onlooker 2: Theresa, you got a big one girl!

Onlooker 3: Yay T!