



Raritan Tot Takes Prize in USDA Focus On Fish Health Contest

Okay, the fish is small. But, so is the fisherman! Little 3- year-old Bryce Gerbounka is so proud of the sunfish he caught all by himself that his family is convinced he is now “a confirmed angler.”

Bryce’s dad, Scott Gerbounka, snapped the photo that won June’s Focus On Fish Health Photo Contest in the category of *Your Best Catch*. It will be featured on the www.FocusOnFishHealth.org website along with the other monthly winner. Focus On Fish Health is a public awareness project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS).

Bryce with his father and brother Evan, 2, who live in Raritan, NJ, were fishing at the Delaware and Raritan canal in Somerset, NJ. “My husband is delighted to have the boys fish with him,” says Bryce’s mom Sara. “We have two daughters aged 15 and 17 and he tried to get them interested when they were young, but it was no go. ‘Too icky,’ they said.”

Scott is very much aware of the danger of spreading fish disease and invasive species, she added. “He’s very environmentally conscious, the kind of guy who picks up debris that others have left behind. “

Sara notes that Scott will not transfer bait from one body of water to another – “In fact, he won’t use live bait.” He is extremely cautious about cleaning and wiping his equipment down after each use, she says. “And he’s teaching the boys early to care about God’s creatures.”

Contestants can submit photos all summer. Go to www.FocusOnFishHealth.org to enter the contest and win prizes. New winners are announced every month.

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