



Focus on Fish Health Photo Contest Winners Announced

All Are Committed to Preserving their Waterways for Future Generations

Photos of three generations of fishermen and of a 2 ½ year old fishing prodigy are the two winners of May's Focus On Fish Health photo contest. Kevin Powers of Andover, MA and Abigail Miller of Indianapolis, IN are the winners in the two contest categories.

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) targeting recreational fishing and boating enthusiasts with information to prevent fish diseases and invasive species. The photos will be featured on the www.FocusonFishHealth.org website along with other monthly contest winners throughout the summer.

A photo of Bob Coulombe, 82, Kevin Powers, 58, and his grandson Conner Millett, 10, with their latest catch, a large mouth bass, captured the prize in the *Family Fun on the Water* category.

The Powers family, who live in Westfield, MA, spend almost every weekend in the summer at the home of Kevin's Uncle Bob, which is right on Andover Lake in Andover, CT. Fishing is a year-round family sport for them. "We pack a lunch and head out regularly. We even come out to ice fish," says Conner's mom Linda Powers, who snapped the photo.

The bass was caught with a tiny artificial frog, she says, adding that Conner has a tackle box that would make most grown men green with envy. Three generations of avid anglers in the family have helped him grow his artificial bait collection. "He has even started tying his own flies," Ms. Power notes proudly.

Bright-eyed Abigail is pictured showing off one of 16 bluegills she caught one recent spring morning. That photo won in the *Your Best Catch* category.

The Miller family, who live in Indianapolis, was fishing in a retention pond stocked with fish in a park near where Dad, Ryan, works. "Ryan grew up in Canada and loves to fish, so he is always looking for places to take the children so they can enjoy the sport," says Abigail's mom, Melodi Miller.

Dad baited the fishing pole with a worm for Abigail each time, but she reeled the fish in by herself, Ms. Miller said. The fish were thrown back after they were caught, but Abigail insisted on petting each one before it went back in the water, she noted.

Both families said they were interested in the USDA sponsored Focus On Fish Health campaign because they are concerned about preserving and protecting the environment where they enjoy their sport.

None would ever transfer fish, bait or plants from one body of water to another and all wash their boat and equipment after use.

Contestants may submit photos to enter the contest throughout the summer at www.FocusOnFishHealth.org . All winners will receive a Focus On Fish Health duffle bag and their photos will be displayed on www.FocusOnFishHealth.org.

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