



For Immediate Release

Sam Barill Wins Focus On Fish Health Photo Contest

In the Happiest Boater on the Lake Category

Sam Barill's struggle to land a 26", 6 pound, large-mouth bass gives new meaning to the phrase "taken for a spin." The strong fish on the line spun Barill and his lightweight kayak all around Glade Run Lakes, PA, before the angler could reel him in. Two women, who watched with amusement from the shore, volunteered to snap the cell phone photo that won September's Focus On Fish Health Photo Contest in the category of *Happiest Boater on the Lake*.

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). The photo will featured on the www.FocusOnFishHealth.org website along with other monthly winners.

Barill, who lives near the Lakes in Mars, PA ("Yes, I'm from Mars," he says with a smile) was delighted with, and surprised by, his catch. "It's the biggest bass I've caught in my lifetime," he says. He released the fish and will try to duplicate his record again another day.

Barill says that he fishes Glen Run Lakes in his 10 foot kayak as frequently as possible. It is a non-motorized lake – only canoes and kayaks – and is quiet and relaxing. "My boat fits in my station wagon; the lake is 10 minutes away. It's ideal."

Barill was interested in the USDA-sponsored Focus On Fish Health campaign, which targets recreational boaters and fishermen with information about preventing the spread of fish diseases and invasive species, because, he says, "I've seen in the past how disregard for the environment can destroy a lake."

"I clean my kayak, I toss live bait, I wash down my equipment and I take away everything I brought with me," he says. "I hope others will do the same."

Starting in May of 2011, contestants can submit photos all summer at www.FocusOnFishHealth.org to enter the contest. New winners are announced every month.

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