

## MWS 2023 Kids Outing Report

*Submitted by Brad Allan with Pictures from Henry and Nancy Nabors*



We put another successful Kids Outing in the history books for 2023. Many changes occurred this year including a new location. Quite a few of the changes occurred behind the scenes.

The weather was hot but breezy. The breeze made it very tolerable. Our turnout was good and increased from last year. For example, last year we had 67 kids pre-registered with 71 attending. The difference in those numbers was “walk-ups”, meaning people who discovered the Outing the day of the event or chose not to pre-register. Sometimes people find the Outing just walking by and stopping in to see what we were doing. This year we had 89 kids pre-registered with 95 attending. Since parents are required to accompany their kids the total attendance is about double the number of kids attending. We’re not back to the days of having a Wait List, but we’re moving in that direction.

The fishing was quite good too. The best example of that was a legal size or near legal size pike caught by Donnie Periard. I think everyone caught something. Most were bluegills with some kids catching 8 or 10. Jay Labban brought out his fly rod and let a bunch of kids try fishing a rubber spider off the big T-shaped dock. It was a fish on every other cast or so and a big hit with all who tried the fly rod. I gave it a try too and had a blast. Maybe I’ll turn into a fly-guy, we’ll have to see?



We moved to a new location for this year’s Outing. The weeds were terrible at last year’s event. Gary Townes broke away from last year’s Outing to scout for a new location on the same lake. He came back with some very positive reports about the area near the West Boat Launch.



My Dad’s neighbor, Curt Mays and his grandkids Sophia and Aiden volunteered to fish the potential new location as soon as they packed up from attending last year’s Outing. My wife, Mb, and I checked on them when we had cleaned up and packed all our gear in our vehicles. We walked the shoreline for a while and checked on Curt’s success. The results were all the positive things that Gary described, very few weeds, visible schools of fish and nice floating docks, bathrooms with running water plus a large, covered pavilion.



I made the decision to move the Outing to this spot for 23’.



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*Submitted by Brad Allan with Pictures from Henry and Nancy Nabors and Jim Francis*

I used a more de-centralized approach to preparing the equipment and gathering the drinks this year. Six Steelheaders volunteered to pick up, assemble and deliver rods, reels and tackleboxes to the Outing. Seven Steelheaders volunteered to buy and bring drinks and ice in their own cooler to the Outing. Many of these members did both, bringing the gear and the drinks! The rod and reel set up was very basic. A bobber, weight, and a hook. All the barbs were flattened to make them essentially barbless for an easy release, hopefully drama free. My goal was to create a very relaxed, fishing focused experience.

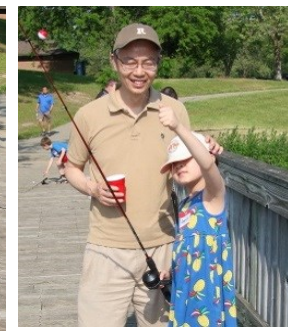
I was very pleased to see the number of volunteers double this year vs. last year. I had 12 last year and 25 this year. Four of my volunteers were non-members. Two of those were sent by Karen Westphal to take her place as she was out recovering from shoulder surgery. Two people to replace Karen is about the right ratio, so that was welcome. One of the other non-member volunteers was Karen's co-worker, again thanks to Karen! The sad part of the volunteer situation is that the Steelheader volunteers are the same people (with 3 exceptions) that have volunteered for the Outing in the past or work on Outdoorama, or work on the Ultimate Fishing Show or Salmon In The Classroom, or the Sportsman's Banquet, etc. More of the 80/20 rule.

Many thanks to Walt's Crawlers for providing 1000 red worms! Many thanks to Mark Stephens and Project Fish for allowing us to purchase equipment through their program! Many thanks to all the volunteers that helped this year! The volunteers make



the Outing happen and create a very positive fishing experience for the kids and parents, alike.

Thanks, Brad



# MWS 2023 Kids Outing Report

*Submitted by MWS Members*

**Marc Traver:** Metro West Kids Fishing Outing June 3, 2023 Kensington Metro Park - Just wanted to let the club know we had a VERY successful event today. If you feel that one of the club's goals is to encourage younger people to get involved in our sport, this is the event. We had about 100 kids fishing, between 3 - 12 with no experience, but with great expectations. We had about 85 percent of parents with no experience, but a huge support for their kids and grateful for any and all help and advice we could give them.

We had a great group of members working today, but it was the same group that always works. We need more members to commit a little more if this club is to support young anglers in Michigan. Please come and see how much fun this event is next year and lend a hand teaching kids to fish.



**Tom Cunningham:** The Harness Tying Table was busy most of the morning with the Kids tying between 50 & 60 Harness. The joy and smiles makes this the best job of the event! To watch the concentration on their faces picking the perfect beads to go with the perfect blade has to make you smile. When finished you could see how proud they were for making "Their Own Lure!!! We also had a record breaking youngster take about 3 minutes to pick his "Perfect Blade" looking at both the top & bottom of just about every blade we had on the table. the bead choices went a little faster and we had another satisfied customer. and as always we had a lot of "Thank Yous" from both parents and the Kids! WE Get The Kids Involved.



**Jay Labban - Member:** Helping the kids (young and young at heart) catch their first fish and some on a fly rod was priceless. I used a green caterpillar attractor. Loved watching the smile on their faces.

Great cause. Will definitely repeat. And spread the word with my friends and subdivision. Great Job! Thanks Brad!



**Marla Oliver - Member:** (sent pictures of the boys during the event and a Text): THANK YOU for yesterday!! The boys (Anthony - JR Member & Donnie) had a blast and were absolutely over the moon with all the very nice and generous goodies you gave them!! As a matter of fact they went fishing again today and brought their new rods and lures. Thank you again!



# MWS 2023 Kids Outing Report

Submitted by Brad Allan with Pictures from Brad and Friends

## Brad Requested a few more pictures!!



**Looooook at ALLLLL those SMILES!**  
**Thanks Metro West Steelheaders for supporting Kids Outings over the years!**  
**Memories are made of this!!!!**



# MWS 2023 Kids Outing Report - Volunteers

Submitted by Henry Nabors

**Thanks to the volunteers!** Here are a few of the 28 volunteers that worked with our visitors and made them feel welcome and special! Lots of expressions of appreciation were share by our guest!

