



Mike Greener/Daily Republic photos

Hundreds gathered at the Fairfield Civic Center pond Saturday morning for a fishing derby in honor of Earth Day.

# Fishing derby is big draw

*Hundreds turn out for event*

BY SUSAN WINLOW  
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — With much patience Hope Stuart baited hooks and untangled several knotted fishing lines Saturday morning during Fairfield's Earth Day celebration at the Civic Center pond behind City Hall.

"I have a whole new appreciation for what my mom went through fishing with four kids," she said with a laugh.

Vallejo residents Hope and Daniel Stuart brought their four kids, ranging in age from 3 to the 13, to the Kids Day of Fishing portion of the 10th annual Earth Day festivities.

The first 200 kids registered received free fishing poles and the family arrived at 7 a.m. hoping for the free poles because, Hope Stuart said, coming up with the money for four fishing poles was too much money.

"When I found out they were giving the poles away, I thought this was a good way to introduce

(them) to fishing," she said.

The Civic Center pond was ringed with several hundred kids and parents shortly after 9 a.m. in hopes of catching a piece of the bounty -- 600 pounds of catfish and bass -- put into the pond for the derby. The event was hosted by the Fairfield Kiwanis Club and Kids Day of Fishing, Inc.

Kids were given free worms, which many struggled to put on the end of the hooks and then sometimes lost when the fish grabbed the bait but not the hook.

"The fish jacked my bait," said Hope Stuart's daughter, Nadine Goebel, 13, as she inspected the fish hook that not five minutes before held a worm.

Her mom carefully baited another hook and showed her how to do it.

On the other side of the pond, Sierra Smith, 11, of Vacaville and her family were also trying their luck at catching some fish.

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Gwynn O'Gara, Poet Laureate of Sonoma County, smiles to a round of applause from the audience at the Poetry in the Park event at the Fairfield Civic Center Library Saturday.

# Poets gather to perform in the park

BY SUSAN WINLOW  
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — The scene evoked words from a poem.

A sunny day with a bright blue sky. Ducks and geese gliding across the pond behind the Civic Center Library on Kentucky Street. Kids on bikes, families picnicking on the lush grass.

Every so often a group would walk by the poets as they read and give them a glance or pause to listen.

This is National Poetry Month and while several local Poet Laureates read their works outdoors behind the library during Poetry in the Park, the scene above was happening right behind them. It seemed ap-

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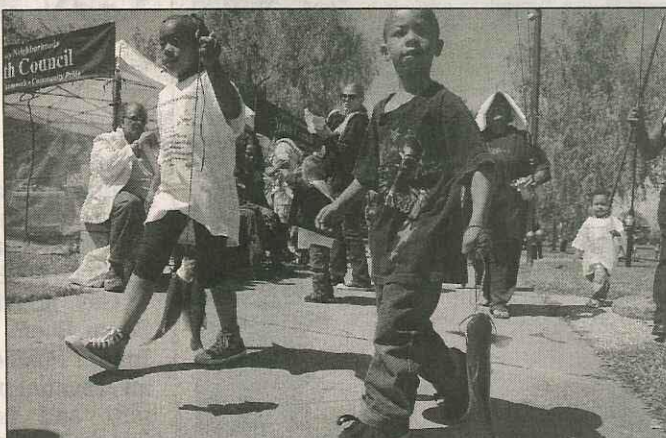
# Derby: 200 fishing rods given away at event

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Sierra had fished before and it was obvious as she threw her line carefully into the water. Sierra came with several family members, including her mother Andrea Martinez and her mother's boyfriend, Chris Jones, though it wasn't clear if she was catching dinner.

"The kids don't want to eat them, they just want to catch them," Jones said.

In addition to the fishing derby various companies, including Solano Garbage, Potrero Hills, PG&E and Master Gardners had booths set up to teach about



Mike Greener/Daily Republic

Monesha Fletcher, 7, left, and Michael Beard, 6, center, carry their catches of the day to be weighed during the Earth Day Fishing Derby on Saturday afternoon.

going green and saving energy. Master Gardners taught about composting, PG&E had information on

solar power and Solano Garbage had information about growing plants, cleaning homes and controlling insects in less-toxic ways. The city of Fairfield also had a booth to sign up prospective volunteers interested in helping the community.

An interactive game had attendees getting "green" cards checked off at each booth they visited. A completed card earned a chance to win a ticket for a later raffle and a biodegradable Frisbee.

Reach Susan Winlow at 427-6955 or swinlow@dailyrepublic.net.