

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2010

Contact: Joel Keefer
(716) 753-4672

Chautauqua County Executive Fishes with Essay Contest Winners

Elementary School students Drew Coniglio and Lauren Hendrick join Greg Edwards on trip

Mayville: -- In what has become an annual tradition, Chautauqua County Executive Gregory J. Edwards headed out onto the waters of Chautauqua Lake today with the winners of this year's Sports Fishery Advisory Board Spring Fishing Essay Contest.

Drew Coniglio, who is a 5th Grader at Fredonia Elementary, and Lauren Hendrick, who is in the 5th Grade at Bemus Point Elementary, won the opportunity to go fishing with Edwards after their essays were chosen from a group of nearly 500 well written, and thoughtful, entries.

The group headed out on a pontoon boat from the docks at We Wan Chu Cottages outside of Mayville for 2 hours with Chautauqua County Sports Fishing Hunting Director Craig Robbins, who has volunteered his professional services for the excursion for the past several years.

Drew and Lauren won the chance to fish with the County Executive through the 18th Annual Spring Fishing Essay Contest. The contest is for Chautauqua County elementary and middle school students in grades 3 through 6.

Sports Fishery Advisory Board Chairman Zen Olow said they received 475 entries from 18 different schools for this year's essay contest.

The topic for this year's contest was; "**Fishing in Chautauqua County is fun....Where would you go and who would you like to fish with?**"

Edwards said that fishing is a sport that he has enjoyed for many years, and a critical economic tool for Chautauqua County.

"Encouraging local students to participate in this contest will inevitably lead to an increased awareness and appreciation of our many fishing opportunities here in Chautauqua County," Edwards said. "Fishing is an important recreational activity within our region, and I am excited to see the essay contest still going strong after 18 years."

If you have any questions concerning the Chautauqua County Sports Fishery Advisory Board, or if you would like more information, please contact Zen Olow at 640-2776.

-END-